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Council approves fairground use for ice racing

by NICK BERNARD
Times Staff

Ice racing season is a go. Earlier this month when the provincial government announced a modified version of Step Two of the province's Roadmap to Reopen, the township of Minden Hills closed facilities that included the fairgrounds, similar to what happened during a provincial lockdown in 2021. The move prompted a number of responses, including a letter from the Minden Kin Club and the ILR Car Control School, saying the school is "an essential service that trains many other essential workers."

In his report to council during its meeting on Jan 13, director of community services Craig Belfry said that a number of conversations were had with the Kin Club over the holidays.

"We're just waiting for direction from council now whether we move ahead in some modified fashion, or just open it back up," Belfry said. Currently, with the exception of the Kin Club, the township has received insurance information and COVID safety plans from all groups planning to use the fairgrounds. "If we do open it up to the public,

see KIN page 2



Go, go, go in the snow

Madisyn Fisher, in the driver's seat, takes friend Mya Carpenter for a slide during a birthday celebration in Gelert for Blair and McKinley Fisher. /Photo by Cathy Fisher

Councillors seek clarification in shoreline bylaw

by NICK BERNARD
Times Staff

Councillors held a line-by-line review of the much-discussed draft shoreline preservation bylaw in a special meeting of coun-

ty council on Jan. 17. The bylaw, which has been in the works since 2017, was reviewed in a presentation by consultants from Hutchinson Environmental Services, and J.L. Richards & Associates in October.

While the five-hour meeting resulted in a large number of items for the consultants, it was agreed that another special meeting

would be arranged to discuss the draft bylaw within the next three months.

"I think as we've gone through the document, we've clarified where there needs to be additions or clarifications, or a few more details added, and we look forward to those things being brought back to us for review,"

see SHORELINE page 3



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21

Kin Club back to prepare the track for ice events

from page 1

again, we'll still need that COVID safety plan."

Minden Mayor Brent Devolin said he supported the re-opening of the fairgrounds, as long as everyone is following public health protocols like social distancing.

"I think we're in a different place and we know some things that we didn't a year ago," Devolin said, saying he's seen little evidence of community transmission through outdoor events. He also mentioned the mental health aspect. "I think it's been a tough time for people, and we need to do things that are out of doors ... with the caveat that all safety measures that can be taken for the properties are adhered to. But in principle, I would like to move forward [with resuming events at the fairground] given that all the conditions are met."

According to Belfry, the onus will be on the municipality to enforce compliance with COVID protocols at the fairgrounds, but, with limited staffing resources, it would have to rely on the honour system.

"As it's outdoor, there isn't a screening requirement because they are not walking through an indoor facility," he clarified.

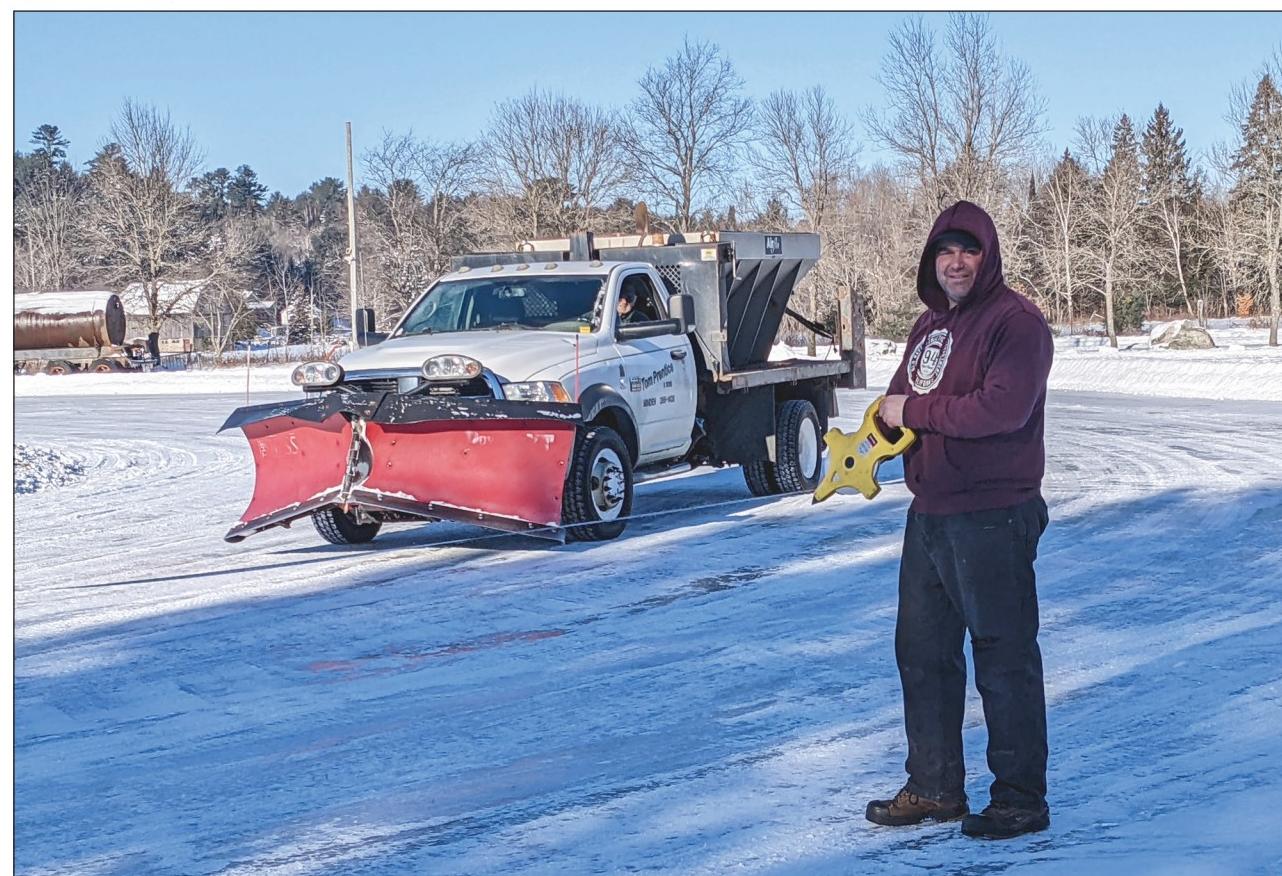
Council passed a motion to re-open the fairgrounds, on the condition that all organizers submit a COVID-19 safety plan and insurance coverage.

Kin Club president Andy Rickard said he was delighted by the decision.

"It is great that our council recognises the importance of these events for our community and for the mental health of the participants," he told the *Times* in an email. "We are working out the details of the season with the Kin Club and the racers."

Work on the ice track began again the next day. Ice racing events will be held beginning in February, into the first week of March.

Information on the ILR Car Control program can be found



Darren Gilbert measures the width of the ice track at the Minden Fairgrounds as Tom Prentice looks on, during track preparation on Jan. 14. Ice races will begin on the track at the end of the month. Reopening the Minden Fairgrounds so that ice racing events could take place was approved by Minden council at a meeting held Jan. 13. /NICK BERNARD Staff

Minden Hills plans for future downtown ice rink

by NICK BERNARD
Times Staff

Minden's downtown will be home to an ice rink in the future.

At a Jan. 13 Minden Hills council meeting, Craig Belfry, community services director, spoke to councillors about a Dec. 9 delegation by Monica and Ben Scott, owners of the Minden River Cone, on the possibility of creating an ice rink next to their business on Orde Street. In his report, Belfry said one option was to move the Dawson Hamilton Memorial Ice Rink, currently located next to the Minden Cultural Centre.

Belfry and his staff consulted with proponents of the idea, as well as other municipalities with similar ice rink programs.

"We're all in support of having an outdoor rink, I think that's a great idea being driven by volunteers, if that can be sustained," Belfry said.

At the time of the delegation, work on the Dawson Hamilton rink had already begun, and the rink has since been opened to the public.

"When I talked to Monica about it, the idea that she had was not exactly for this year, it was 'what can we do in the future,'" Belfry



explained, saying the prep work involved in such a project requires a number of protocols, including insurance and the pre-screening of volunteers. "It gives us some time to look to next year to find a new rink."

Belfry also said there were a number of concerns around placing the rink beside the River Cone from other departments.

"There is a storm drain in there that the rink would be covering, there is access to the water system in the middle of the road that [would also be covered], snow plowing would be

an issue," Belfry said, listing off observations made by acting director of public works Tara Stephens and fire chief Nelson Johnson. "From a fire perspective, it would be blocking a fire hydrant there, so that was going to be an issue for the fire department in responding to issues if they do occur."

Belfry suggested an alternative location for the rink, beside the fire hall.

"We have a spot where we could move it," he said. "There is a grass area that it could be moved to in the future. We do have to look,

Ben and Monica Scott, who own the Minden River Cone, made a delegation to Minden Hills council on Dec. 9 proposing the relocation of the Dawson Hamilton Memorial Ice Rink to the unused roadway at the north end of Orde Street. /Concept drawing from Dec. 9 proposal

again, at snow plowing issues because public works does dump snow there, so we'd have to look at that. But there are other options that we can explore if [it's not] on Orde Street. When I did talk to Monica, I said if we do move it to another location, would her volunteer crew still work on that rink if it's not on Orde Street and they confirmed yeah they would still like to move ahead."

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell was moved to emotion as she reminded council why Minden has the Dawson Hamilton rink, noting that the Jan. 11 meeting was taking place 12 years and a day since the boy's death from leukemia.

"He was a little boy that was very well-known within our community," she said. "And his mom and dad, Scott and Heather, lost him 12 years ago, and he was very much into the hockey community. This just seemed like a nice way to remember him within the community, and we did a lot of fundraising in order to purchase the Dawson Hamilton Memorial Rink, so I'm very happy to see it revived and being used by the community and that we wouldn't forget him."

Council directed staff to proceed with the development of a new ice rink, or else relocate the Dawson Hamilton rink for 2023.

Man charged with impaired driving after Hwy. 35 crash



A 29-year-old man from Scarborough was charged with impaired operation after a single-vehicle collision in Minden Hills.

On Jan. 15 at approximately 10 p.m., Haliburton Highlands OPP was notified of a vehicle in the ditch on Highway 35 in the township of Minden Hills. Upon arrival, officers began an impaired driving investigation. No injuries were reported.

As a result of the investigation, the driver was arrested

and charged with:

- Failure or refusal to comply with demand
- Operation while impaired-blood alcohol concentration-80 plus
- Having care or control of a motor vehicle with open container of liquor

The accused had his driver's licence suspended for 90 days and vehicle impounded for seven days. He is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden, on March 2.

In two other unrelated traffic investigations over the weekend in Haliburton County, two other drivers were is-

sued three-day driver's licence suspensions for being in the "warn" range when tested on approved screening devices for alcohol.

Haliburton Highlands OPP reminds motorists to plan ahead when consuming alcohol or drugs. Use a designated driver, cab, public transit, or stay overnight. Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impact your ability to make sound judgements. If you suspect a driver may be impaired, make the lifesaving call and dial 9-1-1.

Learn more about the consequences of driving impaired by visiting www.ontario.ca/page/impaired-driving.

Shoreline bylaw language ‘must meet intent’

from page 1

said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt. She emphasized throughout the meeting that the language of the bylaw must meet its intent.

At the outset of the meeting, Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen characterized her experience with the process, saying that educating the public will be important.

“Whether we pass this bylaw over the next few weeks, or months, or not, I think we’ve all heard loud and clear that we need to put some effort into education, as it’s clear that many taxpayers still don’t understand the full intent of the bylaw, its contents, what will require a permit or not, or that what is already in place is protected,” she said, expressing the spectrum of concerns that council has heard throughout the process. “This isn’t about little projects ... it’s about extensive excavation, blasting, clear cutting, and massive earthworks and significant changes to the waterfront.”

Throughout the meeting, councillors made numerous suggestions, including a significant number of additions to the list of definitions.

“I am going to be picky on language around the draft, because I think there’s some language that is, the intent is sound, but the interpretation could cause problems,” said Moffatt.

The first major discussion took place around the area of application for the bylaw, including the much-discussed 30-metre buffer zone that is defined as a protected shoreline.

“What we’re suggesting, in summary, is that the by-law apply to the 30-metre shoreline preservation zone, as well as natural features within the county where the county may wish to exercise some level of oversight around how development occurs in and adjacent to those natural features,” explained Jason Ferrigan, consultant and senior planner at J.L Richards & Associates.

Brent Parsons, senior aquatic scientist with Hutchinson Environmental Services, said that the 30-metre zone was a standard established by the province.

“They provide that guidance through the National Heritage Reference Manual,” he said, referring to a report authored by Ontario’s Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry. Parsons also pointed out that the buffer zone is also recommended by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and a variety of other policies including The Green Belt Plan and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

Dysart Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy further questioned how the thirty meter figure was settled upon.

“Everything I’ve read so far, it depends a lot on ... the slope, on what the ground cover actually is,” he said. “Quebec uses 15 meters, based on different things with slope, vegetation. Nobody I’ve seen has used the blanketed 30-metres for 600 lakes that covers everything from Elephant Lake to the east side part of our county, with an average depth of seven feet

... almost half a kilometre of a road running right alongside a shoreline, to Kawagama Lake, which is hemlock, pine, and Canadian Shield. I’m trying to really get my head wrapped around why we’re using the one-size-fits-all application here.”

Danielsen acknowledged that Kennedy’s concern was one heard by all councillors.

“My issue with that is how manageable [it is] trying to look at 600 different lakes and the different characteristics of them,” she said. “When and if we land on a document that we can all agree on, it’s going to be, I think, challenging to manage for some time ... to try and break things out and deal with different lakes and different circumstances and different soil types, and different rules for each one, to me, is just beyond our ability, especially to start with, to manage.”

Dysart Mayor Andrea Roberts acknowledged that Kennedy was making some key points, but pointed to the existing shoreline tree preservation bylaw, which also defines its shorelines as 30-metre distances.

“I’m still a proponent of the 30-metre setbacks,” she said, listing off a number of existing instances of the 30-metre distance. “Our official plans all talk about 30-metre setbacks, all new lots created are 30 metres, septic tanks have to be back.”

The topic of ponds was also discussed. According to Ferrigan, ponds were a recent inclusion within the scope of natural features protected by the bylaw, and with an exact definition to be included in future versions of the bylaw.

“I think from our past discussions with council, we had included ponds based on feedback around unintended consequences of the bylaw ... the nature of the conversation at the time was that if the shoreline preservation provisions apply to a lake, river, and stream, that may have the unintended consequence of providing an incentive to develop on ponds,” he said. “So, in this particular case, my initial reaction ... is that it applies to natural ponds and not man-made ponds. However, that’s subject to discussion and direction from county council.”

Minden’s Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell responded to that by offering the example of people without ponds on their properties, who suddenly find themselves with ponds created by features like beaver dams.

Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall offered another example of a resident who built an artesian well, and created a pond to collect the overflow, going so far as to add natural features like lily pads.

“Those are the kind of greys that have come up in discussions that I’ve had, because I have two people that actually have that situation,” Ryall said.

Permitting was also a topic that weaved throughout the meeting. As it stands, council is faced with a decision whether to implement a permit system, or continuing its existing practice of not requiring permits for work within the 30-metre zone.

Roberts voiced her thoughts on the matter by expressing

“

This isn’t about little projects ... it’s about extensive excavation, blasting, clear cutting, and massive earthworks and significant changes to the waterfront.

— COUNTY WARDEN LIZ DANIELSEN

”

what she felt was a shift in the way the bylaw was discussed.

“Where this, to me, has gone a little off the rails, is that it’s switched [from] a shoreline preservation bylaw to a site alteration bylaw, which is requiring a permit for absolutely anything within that area,” she said. “That’s where I’m hearing complaints, that’s where I think we’re going to get bogged down.”

Moffatt characterized the existing voluntary system as an honour system that relies on submitted complaints to weed out bad actors who intend on contravening the bylaw.

Another question Moffatt raised was the use of pesticides and fertilizers, as some properties have lawns that impede the 30-metre rule.

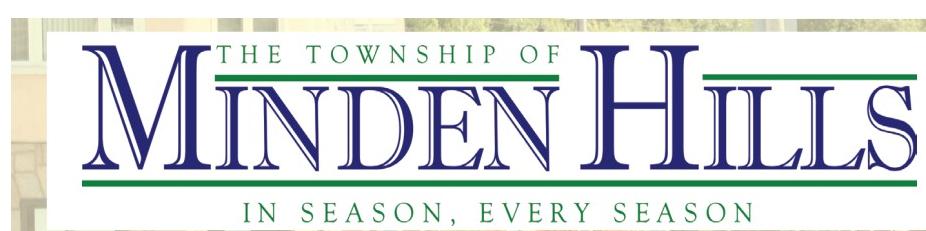
“We can’t stand here and stamp our feet about lawns to the lake being ... one of the biggest contributors to poor lake health, and then not committing to do something about them,” she said. “There are two sides to this argument. On one side of this debate are a whole bunch of people who are asking us to do something about pesticides, fertilizers, and lawns. So, I’m not saying cement shoes for lawns, but that needs to be part of the education program ... I think we just need to do something about it.”

On the topic of contraventions, Minden Mayor Brent Devolin said he hopes those who do contravene the bylaw face stiff fines.

“I’m on the record as wanting as big a fine for contravention of the existing bylaw that we have, and I wouldn’t have spent the last two years of my time if I wasn’t looking for steel-toed boots to deal with these issues,” he said.

The full 897-page report on the existing draft bylaw is available to view on the County of Haliburton’s website.

The full discussion from the Jan. 17 meeting is available to view on the county’s YouTube channel.



(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS
Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

January 27 – Regular Council Meeting
February 10 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

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From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner’s expense.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

When to use Fire Extinguishers

It's important to remember that fire extinguishers are only one element of a complete fire survival plan. Only use your extinguisher after making sure:

- All residents of the home have been evacuated to safety
- The fire department has been notified
- There is a clear exit behind the person using the extinguisher

Board prepares for return to in-school learning

by NICK BERNARD
Times Staff

The following are brief reports on items discussed at the Trillium Lakelands District School Board trustees meeting, held on Jan. 11.

TLDSB director Wes Hahn's first update for the year characterized an eventful return to school for the new year, alluding to the delayed return to classes and the pivot between online learning and the return to in-person classes as of Jan. 17.

"Obviously the return to school has been eventful and, again, filled with change and increased anxiety for staff and families, and that does not go unrecognized by us," he said. "Obviously the increase in cases and the hospitalization rate has dictated a lot of what we're dealing with right now."

Hahn described a number of new measures in place across the board, including a fresh shipment of HEPA filters, new masking protocols, and a new screener for staff and students, which Han says will be even more important, following the Ontario govern-

ment's suspension of COVID case reporting in schools.

"We will look at a number of factors with public health guidance over the next number of days, and at this time there is no collection or reporting of COVID data and cases from public health – that's been clearly stated. And there's been no further Ministry direction on that," Hahn said. "And I think that's really important for us to know."

According to the TLDSB COVID-19 response page, principals will be required to report school absences to the local public health unit if the absences in the school exceed 30 per cent of the school enrollment.

Hahn said that if absentee rates were too high at any particular school, that there was a plan in place to move classes online. He also acknowledged that there will need to be significant consultation between the board and individual principals and their staff, due to the unpredictable number of variables that would precipitate a school or class closure.

"We do have a process in place that we will make decisions based on those factors," he said. "It's not a decision we can make and blanket for all schools, because there are many factors that will determine whether we

do that. And each school has unique situations that will either allow them to remain in-person or have to move [online]."

Hahn assured the board that, while the decision to close schools rested with the board, consultation with public health units would continue.

"If we ever had a question or a scenario or a situation that we just weren't sure of, we know that we can reach out to our public health units, and they've been excellent," he said. "But for the most part, this is now a decision that will be made by us because the data and the contact tracing is not being done by public health, so it will be left to us to manage – from a school perspective – the safety and well-being of staff and students."

He added that asynchronous learning – that is, learning without a live teacher – was available to schools that are open, but have students whose parents have decided to keep them home, or are sick, or are isolating from COVID-19. Assignments, activities, and tasks will be made available for those students on their online classroom platform.

"This is new territory, and we certainly can't replace the work of a public health unit, especially multiple public health units, but we will do our very best to communicate that to families," Hahn said.

Schools will be providing high-quality, three-ply cloth masks to staff and students. PCR self-collection kits for students and staff will also be available for those experiencing symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19 while at school. Rapid antigen tests will be provided to students as well, with elementary students and staff initially receiving two tests. According to TLDSB's website, secondary students will also receive rapid antigen tests at a later date.

Indigenous advisory committee plans for new year

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meets regularly to guide initiatives and activities in TLDSB schools, ensuring that Indigenous history and culture is honoured and celebrated with respect.

TLDSB's superintendent of learning, Jennifer Johnston, updated the board on an action plan for Indigenous education for the year, created by the board's Indigenous

Education Advisory Committee to identify key goals for the board's Indigenous education portfolio.

Johnston reported that staff had conducted training through the Elders in Residence program, as well as a presentation by Sherry Telford, who led a program called Gatherings for Truth and Reconciliation in partnership with Anne Taylor, cultural archivist from Curve Lake First Nation.

She also reported that members of the committee had a "robust conversation" about the Indigenous voluntary self-identification program that TLDSB has run for a number of years now. According to TLDSB's procedure on voluntary self-identification, the program's goal is to inform a more focused approach for programming and to facilitate efforts for increased resources for Indigenous students.

"The voice of the committee courageously identified the feelings that some families may have when they are considering whether to voluntarily self-ID in the school system and the committee strongly voiced why we collect this data and for what outcome," Johnston told the board. "In truth, [TLDSB] hasn't fully leveraged the data we have collected, in terms of taking a look at our students and thinking about what is the intersection of that data with student special education data, graduation rates, credit accumulation, etcetera."

Johnston said the board had seen a steady increase of self-identifications.

She went on to explain that the committee intends to make a plan to identify barriers that may exist for Indigenous students across the board, and find areas of education and programming where Indigenous students are being under-served.

"As a learning organization, I know director Hahn and I have spoken about that commitment to establish a plan to regularly report back to our Indigenous education committee, and build goals to ... ensure that all outcomes are met for Indigenous students," she said. "All of that to say, I'm privileged to work with the Indigenous education committee, and the voices of our partners at that table are so instrumental to our strategic plan and board improvement and equity plan."

The full meeting is available to view at www.tldsb.ca/board/board-meetings.

Haliburton County council hopes to reduce proposed tax increase

by STEPHEN PETRICK
Special to the Times

Haliburton County councillors hope to whittle down a proposed budget that would lead to a roughly three per cent tax increase to county residents.

Details on the 2022 operations and capital budget were discussed at the Wednesday, Jan. 12 county council meeting, held virtually.

A report by director of corporate services Andrea Bull showed a proposed tax levy of \$20,861,271 to be shared among residents; an increase of 3.17 per cent over last year's levy.

However, some lines on the budget are still being worked out.

Bull clarified that, since filing the report, she's become aware of increasing insurance costs that the county will face. Meanwhile, other councillors said they believed the library board was finding savings that could

offset those insurance costs.

Council voted unanimously to accept several amendments to the new budget document. The move allows staff to still look for savings before a final budget is officially approved.

"I would like to see a more wholesome report of where we're at," said Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts. "I know it's been a tough year, but I'd like to bring the levy lower."

Warden Liz Danielsen said she agreed. Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said she supported giving staff more time to "cross our t's and dot our i's."

An earlier draft of the budget had council looking at a 3.21 per cent tax increase. The increase is a result of several new capital and operational expenses in county departments. This includes new initiatives in information technology, emergency services, planning, economic development, public works, building, administration and library departments.



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Hike Haliburton - Winter Edition cancelled

by STEPHEN PETRICK
Special to the Times

Another event is taking a hike, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hike Haliburton - Winter Edition festival, scheduled for Feb. 5 and 6, has been cancelled. The news was made official at the Wednesday, Jan. 12 county council meeting, held virtually, when councillors voted to accept a recommendation to cancel the county-run event.

Haliburton economic development and tourism director Scott Ovall said the “optics” of planning the festival with Ontario in a Modified Step 2 re-opening plan would not be good.

He said his department will pursue grants so the county can look at holding a “bigger and better event in 2023.”

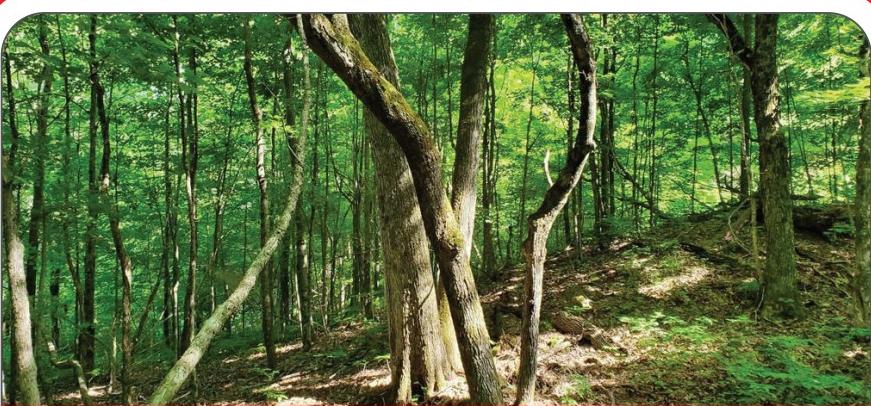
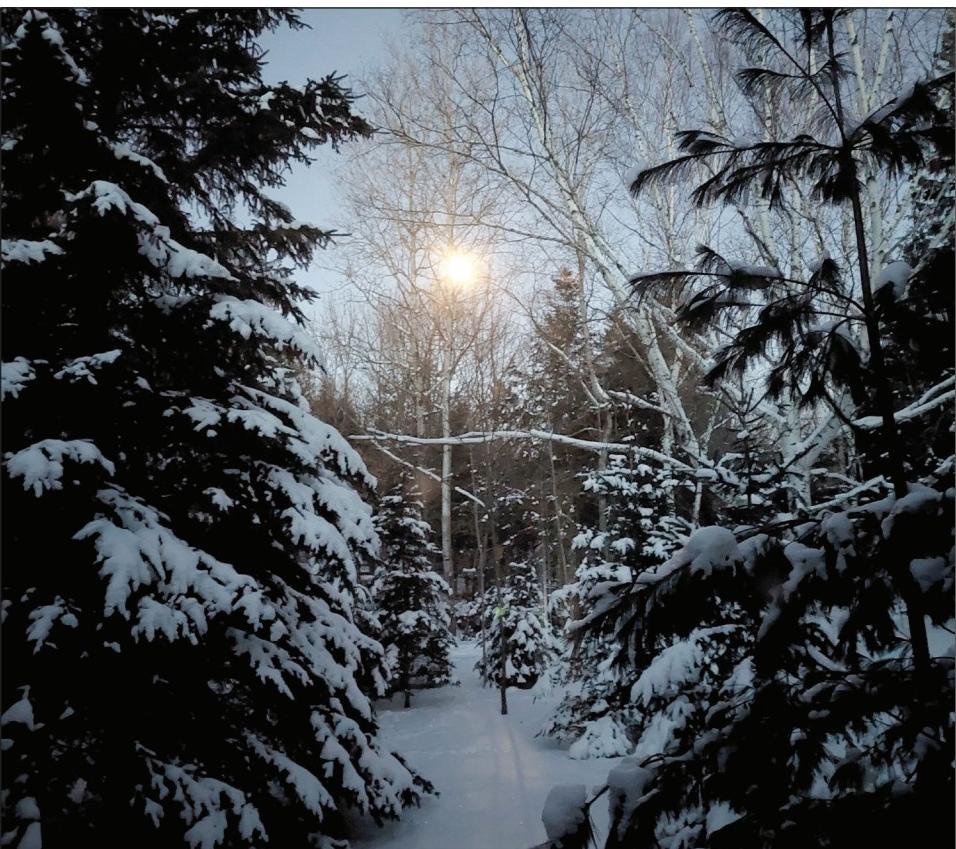
Warden Liz Danielssen agreed with the

recommendation saying, “sadly, it’s a no-brainer.”

Hike Haliburton - Winter Edition, which last took place in the winter of 2020, is an economic development generator for the county, as it gets local residents and tourists out to county hiking trails and eating at local restaurants. The event has volunteers lead hikers on guided snowshoe hikes at various locations in the county.

Calm before the storm

The moon rises in Minden in the early evening of Jan. 16. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



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Snow day

IT'S BEEN a long, hard winter but not for the usual weather-related reasons. For some days leading up to Christmas, I wondered if it would be a touch on the green side much to the disappointment of the festive little elves in my house.

And then it happened. Much to the delight of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association and winter enthusiasts at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride and students across Ontario hoping for a snow day, the flakes began to fall.

Monday's snow – beautiful despite the blizzard and winter storm warnings blaring in our direction - saw upwards of 30 to 55 centimetres of snow fall in much of southern Ontario, except in Windsor which appeared dreadfully dry-looking though significantly easier on the back.

The snowfall was needed - maybe not that much of it, especially to those stuck in traffic jams on the 401, trying to get to work through the thick of it, or anticipating the first day back to in-person school since, well, last year really.

But for many, having not seen so much snow in quite some time, it reminded us of joy. Kids across the county got outside – you can see some of their photos throughout this edition of your newspaper, enjoying the snow before they begin to associate it with shovelling and warming up cars, cancellations and wet socks. Dogs were buried up to their

bodies, having to jump through the quickly accumulating snow piles to get anywhere - little Bean Hirstwood, a small pooch adopted from Texas, experienced his first true snowfall in a backyard in Minden.

And then the good news began. In the cities, where heaps of snow are still more of a novelty, people skied to work. Security guards cleared off windshields of hospital workers so that when they came out from working long shifts, their cars were ready to take them home. An eight-year-

old boy saved an elderly man who had become buried in snow in Ottawa, noticing he needed help and taking care of him with the compassion we hope we all still have. Neighbours began doing good deeds for each other, no matter where they lived or

what their relationships had been like just the day before.

Jan. 17 is often referred to as Blue Monday, and we have some hard times to get through still, but we've still got it in us to experience joy and help each other through.

It was the worst snowfall our province has seen for some time, but the worst can still bring out the best in us.

And at the end of the day the most beautiful of sunsets filled the sky, the colours pink and red washing over the land to remind us that tomorrow would be a day with clear skies.



SUE TIFFIN
Editor

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Kwarky



*"Before you identify the suspect,
we need to confirm your identity."*

Forget average snow depth

I THINK WE can agree that a snow-clad landscape is a beautiful sight – provided that our driveways are not a part of that landscape. Having said that, a snowclad landscape is also deceptive, for it hides all sorts of hazardous things we should know the location of – my snow shovel immediately comes to mind.

The problem, as I see it, is that in this busy world we like to simplify things. So, when some weatherperson says we will accumulate 8 inches of snow – as we have done around my house recently – we forget that this is merely an average snow depth.

The truth is always worse. There will always be places that will be way above average and have approximately 16 feet of snow. The chasm I stepped into while walking my dog this morning was one such location.

I am exaggerating, of course. It was not so much a chasm as it was a gaping hole. But it was also the worst kind of gaping hole – one with 16 feet of snow in it. Worse still, it was also just on the other side of the log I was in the midst of stepping over.

Let me first say, what results from this sort of misstep is never a good look. Typically, when one of your legs is swallowed to its confluence down a hole and the other leg is situated so its knee is located somewhere above your ear, its best not to take selfies – unless you are going for a horror movie look.

Luckily, I did not have to suffer this indignity because the log stopped my undercarriage short.

"Ouch!" I immediately blurted out, although in a higher pitched voice than you

are probably imagining. This, in my experience, is the only genuine thing to say.

I won't lie. I have dabbled in other phrases just in case someone is within earshot and witnessing the event. I once used, "Gotta love straddling a frozen tree!" but that seemed a bit glib and disingenuous, especially when coupled with the wincing and involuntary tears.

But I digress.

The point is to not get too caught up in average snow depth. Instead, just be very suspicious of it. I personally take that average number and multiply it by 18 just to be safe. You can never be too cautious.

I have also developed a strategy, which I did not use this morning, to avoid those literal pitfalls.

The best way, by far, is to follow in the tracks of a taller person. A telltale hint of a sudden increase in snow depth is when you blink and they are no longer there or suddenly merely your height. At that point it is prudent to be cautious.

Or course, there comes a time every winter when you will have used up all your taller friends. Once that point is reached, I highly recommend resorting to a hiking pole with a ski cup attachment at the base. Then use the same sort of approach that soldiers crossing an active mine field utilize – which basically means getting some unknowing fool to walk in front of you.

Failing all these things, it doesn't hurt to look for indicators such as the tops of hats ahead of you in the snow. Also, consider wearing a colourful hat so the next guy can find you.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Learning to live in the future

THE KIDS ARE back in school, which is a good thing. Excellent education without COVID-19 infections is the hope of all.

Canada has good education systems with teachers dedicated to giving students the best education available. However, curriculums established to guide teachers on what to teach are outdated and do not address what our children must learn to face the future.

Their future will be challenging, to put it mildly. Realistically, their future could be catastrophic.

Today's children, and tomorrow's, face a future of more COVID-like viruses, devastating changes brought by global warming, and massive political upheaval. They will encounter crises that will test the limits of human capabilities and require the dynamic leadership not seen today in many countries, Canada included.

Most serious is climate change that can bring diseases and people migrations, which can worsen current political instability. And, anyone questioning why we should worry about political instability close to home should look to the United States where talk of civil war has moved out of the shadows and into everyday conversations.

Presumably we are teaching our children about global warming, its causes and the impacts on our weather, and therefore our lives. But is our education system providing a thorough understanding of biodiversity and its critical importance to future life?

A United Nations study has reported that one million animal and plant species face extinction over the next few decades because of climate change, habitat loss and other human activities. Loss of species lowers biodiversity, which leads to changes in landscapes and creates conditions for new diseases to attack animals, including humans.

There is probably no better lesson on the importance of biodiversity than the story of the Yellowstone National Park grey wolves. Wolves were exterminated in the park because humans hated them and refused to acknowledge their important role in nature.

The Yellowstone wolves fed on elk which flourished without them. Growing elk populations destroyed river bank willow stands, which beaver need to survive. Fewer beaver changed the river systems.

Wolves were reintroduced to the park to balance elk populations. The threat of wolves kept the elk on the move, leaving them less time to browse riverbank willows. Willow stands recovered, beaver populations grew and nature's balance was restored.

A full story of the Yellowstone wolves can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/wolf-restoration.htm>

Today's children need new mindsets, knowledge and skills that will help them find solutions to the problems they will face. They will be charged with finding how humanity can occupy the planet's spaces without dominating and degrading them.

To achieve that they will need to learn how to live differently, ensuring that biodiversity does not continue to be degraded. Without strong levels of biodiversity there is no future.

They also will need to learn life changes required for the future. So much of life today is focussed on the individual and individual things such as money and status. The future will demand more collective thought and collective action.

Individual actions always will be important for creating change but the issues looming for the future demand dedicated collective action – people working together on critical common goals.

They also will require strong leadership focussed on collective goals and free of political thinking.

Collective thinking and collective action, directed by strong, unbiased leadership, have helped to find solutions to other serious human problems.

In the 1950s smoke from burning coal was destroying life in London. The air was made cleaner by finding alternatives to burning coal.

In the 1970s, smog was destroying life in Los Angeles. The invention of catalytic converters for automobiles helped to clear the smog problem.

Today's children can live in a safer future world if they are taught the importance of how all lives are critical to nature's balance. Even small, seemingly useless lives.

One life no longer aiding nature's balance is the ivory-billed woodpecker. The bird is believed to be the inspiration for Woody Woodpecker, the iconic cartoon character with the famous Heh-Heh-Heh-HEH laugh.

The ivory-billed woodpecker was declared extinct in September of last year, a victim of industrial logging.

Woody Woodpecker gone from our world forever. And that's no laughing matter.



Picture perfect

A trail cam captured this photo of a deer in the woods last week. /Photo submitted by Guenter Horst

letters to the editor

Ice racer appreciates green light from council

To the Editor,

I would like to applaud the unanimous vote on Jan. 13 by Minden council, giving the green light to this year's ice racing and the ILR Car Control School.

This is not only great news for those of us that race, but also for the Kin Club and the community at large.

The economic impact to Minden, is, as you know, crucial at this time of year. As we travel

to Minden, we spend our money on food, fuel and accommodation, to name just a few.

I was heartened to see a common sense approach to this by council and it truly is appreciated.

Thank you.

**Larry Laycock, aka Woodchips
Ice racer
Brooklin and Little Boshkung**

HCPL's DVD of the Month - January



A brand new "feel good" film from director Michael Lembeck starring Ellen Burstyn, James Caan, and Christopher Lloyd, *Queen Bees* will have you both laughing and crying.

While her house undergoes emergency kitchen repairs, fiercely independent senior Helen must temporarily move into a nearby retirement community. Pine Grove Senior Community, however, is not what she expected. Once behind the idyllic community's closed doors, Helen encounters lusty widows, cutthroat bridge tournaments and a hotbed of bullying 'mean girls' the likes of which she hasn't encountered since high school. All of this leaves her spinning, yearning for the solitude of home. Even so, somewhere between the flower arranging and water aerobics, Helen discovers that it's never too late to make new friends, and even, perhaps, to find new love. A delightful romantic comedy about the young at heart, *Queen Bees* is the perfect film to warm you up on a snowy Saturday. Check it out from Haliburton County Public Library today.

HHHS staffing stable, but still a ‘significant challenge’

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

While staffing levels at Haliburton Highlands Health Services have remained stable enough that emergency departments have avoided closure, HHHS CEO and president Carolyn Plummer said staffing remains a “significant challenge.”

After Christmas, eight per cent of Haliburton Highlands Health Services staff had to isolate as a result of COVID-19 measures and public health and Ministry of Health guidance.

“As the spread of the virus increases in our community, more and more of our staff are having to isolate, which is further increasing the pressure on our staffing issues,” Plummer told the *Times*.

At press time, 5.6 per cent of HHHS employees – 14 people – were isolating from work as a result of a COVID-19 infection or

exposure.

“It is important to note that the majority of those affected were exposed or infected through community spread, rather than at work at HHHS,” said Plummer.

She notes that many healthcare organizations across Ontario are facing similar challenges. Last week, the William Osler Health System, which oversees operations at Brampton Civic Hospital and Etobicoke General Hospital, declared a “code orange,” which Dr. Naveed Mohammad, president and CEO of William Osler Health System said, “is typically used when demand outpaces capacity to ensure internal and external resources are deployed efficiently.”

Last week, the Urgent Care Centre at Peel Memorial Hospital was temporarily closed until Feb. 1, with the web site noting the closure is “due to increasing volumes in our emergency departments, further compounded by our extreme capacity and staffing

pressures.”

Campbellford Memorial Hospital in Northumberland County closed their emergency department overnight on Dec. 24 as a result of insufficient staffing.

“HHHS continues to do all it can to ensure there are sufficient staffing numbers to maintain our programs and services, including working with Ontario Health and the Ministry of Health, bringing agency staffing support to HHHS, and recruiting new staff members to the HHHS team,” said Plummer. “We also continue to do all we can to support the health and well-being of our incredible staff team.”

The Haliburton County COVID-19 community assessment centre reported a 40.76 per cent positivity rate of tests for the period of Dec. 27 to Dec. 31, prior to eligibility for COVID-19 testing changing, up from a positivity rate of 21.77 per cent test positivity from Dec. 20 to Dec. 24 and a 2.94 per cent positivity rate from Dec. 13 to Dec. 17.

As she has done throughout the pandemic, Plummer praised the HHHS staff.

“Their resilience, perseverance, and dedication to providing the quality health care that our community counts on is nothing short of inspirational,” she said. “To support our staff and all healthcare workers, we ask that the community does everything they can to follow public health measures, including being immunized for COVID-19 (first, second, and booster doses), as vaccination significantly reduces the risk of severe illness and/or the need to be hospitalized due to COVID-19. Other measures, including wearing a mask in all public spaces, maintaining social/physical distancing, limiting social gatherings and staying home when able, and diligent hand-washing, are more important than ever.”

HHHS is preparing to accept patient transfers from hospitals throughout the province if and as required, said Plummer.



Two for two

Pearl, 11, and Astrid, 6, Ross of Toronto received a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the Minden Community Centre on Jan. 13, stuffed animal on hand for support. “It didn’t hurt,” said Pearl. “My daddy’s a doctor and he said I had to,” said Astrid, of why the sisters were vaccinated. More information about COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 is available at <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>.

/SUE TIFFIN Staff

County	COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County						
	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	38	0	305	266	4	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	435	2	2,500	2,015	72	50	13
Northumberland	421	0	2,462	2,020	60	20	0
Pending Information	15	0	22	7	0	0	0
Total	909	2	5,289	4,308	136	71	13

Haliburton County reports 300th case

Eight cases of COVID-19 were identified in Haliburton County over the weekend, bringing the county's total number of confirmed cases during the pandemic to 305, according to the Jan. 17 epidemiology report from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit. As testing is limited to individuals in high-risk settings as of Dec. 31, the number of reported cases of COVID-19 is an underestimate of the community spread./Screenshot from HKPRDHU website

Changes to testing, outbreak guidelines impact daily reports

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking, held virtually on Jan. 12.

There have been 4,858 cases of COVID-19 confirmed in the region, with 1,124 lab-confirmed active cases of COVID-19 at the time of the media briefing. Bocking reminded the public that changes to provincial guidance for testing impacts the day-to-day numbers in that not everyone with symptoms of COVID-19 will be tested.

“We know that the number of active cases on our dashboard is not reflective of the actual number of COVID-19 cases in the community,” Bocking said. Currently only those who are symptomatic and work or live in high-risk settings, including long-term care facilities, retirement homes, shelters and correctional institutions; hospitalized patients

and some patients in emergency departments; underhoused or homeless; Indigenous people and those travelling into Indigenous communities for work and elementary and secondary students and education staff who have received a PCR self-collection kit through their school can obtain a PCR test.

“While I can share a number on our dashboard of the lab-confirmed cases, it doesn’t include the whole burden of COVID-19 the community is currently experiencing,” Bocking said. “That being said I think it’s still a proxy measure, or indicative of COVID-19 activity in the community. Yes, it’s a smaller portion of the population that is accessing these tests, but if those numbers are still high, it’s still signifying that there’s a lot of COVID-19 activity in the community.”

Bocking said there are other measures that can be looked at to determine when there is decreased activity overall, including test positivity – the proportion of tests that are positive from those being tested. On Jan. 4, the test positivity rate in the region was at around 22 per cent. Another measure, said Bocking, is the number of outbreaks in a community

– as of Jan. 12, there were 30 outbreaks that had been declared, 15 of those at long-term care homes, none in Haliburton County. Outbreaks in higher risk settings – long-term care homes, retirement homes, correctional institutions – are being reported, but not outbreaks in other settings such as with hockey teams, said Bocking.

By the numbers

Of those case numbers being reported, 30 per cent of confirmed cases have been identified in young adults between the ages of 30 and 39.

In the 14 days prior to last week’s media briefing, 14 individuals have been admitted to hospitals – eight of those individuals are 70 or above, with the higher risk of needing hospital admission still among older age groups. Two hospital admissions were among the age group of 10 to 19. Also in the last 14 days, three people have been admitted to the ICU, two were over the age of 70, one was in the 60- to 69-year-old age group.

There had been five deaths over the last 14 days, all aged 70 and over.

Vaccination status

Among those admitted to hospital, Bocking said there have not been any hospital admissions among individuals vaccinated with three doses of COVID-19 vaccine. There have been several hospitalizations of those who have received two doses, which she said isn’t a surprise, noting two doses aren’t as effective against the Omicron variant as they were against the Delta variant.

Bocking said there continued to be good progress in people aged 70 and older accessing boosters. To date, 70.4 per cent of people aged 70 and over have received their booster.

Among the population 18 and older, 43 per cent have received their booster.

Bocking said while the vaccination of young or school-aged children had good uptake at first, “I wouldn’t say that it stalled but the rate of increase has certainly levelled off.”



Purrfect donation

Roxanne Casey, left, of Canoe FM presented Don Kerr of the Minden Cat Angels with a cheque for \$1,050, money raised through ticket sales of Radio Bingo sheets. "Minden Cat Angels wishes to thank Canoe FM through Charity Bingo for once again making a cheque presentation to us," said Kerr. "Besides helping with vet and shelter expenses, we will also use the extra funds for the very important spay and neutering of cats in the colonies that are popping up in our area."/Photo submitted

Movie streaming and digital magazine services launched

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Jan. 12 meeting of the Haliburton County Public Library board.

Kanopy, a streaming service which gives library members free access to movie and television shows for both adults and children, and a digital magazine service have been launched and are attracting users.

HCPL CEO Chris Stephenson said he was anticipating "a runaway success" with magazines, as a service available through the Libby or Overdrive apps offers library patrons access to 3,800 digital magazines. "Everything from *Old House Journal*, to *Maclean's*, to *Fashion* magazine, you name it, it's in there," said Stephenson. "I was reading *The New Yorker* last night. They're all free, you can take out as many as you want." He said in the last 10 days, there had been 235 magazine checkouts.

"These are very high numbers for a brand new service," said Stephenson. Kanopy has been available since the middle of December, and Stephenson said a report showed that 63 people signed up right away, and more than 100 people were viewing films "right out of the gate."

He noted the library is on budget for the service, and in the future more of a collection might be added if numbers stay under budget and the service continues to be used.

Dorset book depot readies for readers

A new courier has been hired and will undergo training this week to get the Dorset book depot up and running. The book depot - lockers that have been put in place outside of Robinson's General Store to serve library patrons in the Dorset area while the space at the Dorset Recreation Centre is temporarily unavailable - was set up at the end of December and lockers have been mounted and secured so they are safe for use.

"As soon as we can establish who in the area is interested in using the service and placing holds and using the service, we'll start to create a spreadsheet and assign a locker and get going right away," said Stephenson. He said he anticipated that service would be available by the end of the month.

Library applauded for community support and outreach

Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall, who sits on the board, thanked Stephenson and staff for opening the Cardiff library after-hours to assist with the Cardiff Food Bank Christmas toy distribution campaign. "It's so greatly appreciated, and a beautiful place to see," said Ryall. "Thank you and thank your staff."

Three library locations were also used for the EarlyON Jingle Bells sing-along special outdoor event that was held in December. "We're pleased to use the library for purposes beyond the regular hours, it's just a matter of rallying our troops and then creating those partnerships in the community and building bridges, which we're continuing to do, certainly with our new programming and outreach co-ordinator Andrea Brown," said Stephenson. "We're off to a good start in that community and I'd like to see more of that elsewhere in the system." Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts thanked Brown through Stephenson for visiting the Gardens of Haliburton retirement home to help promote the library's book club resources.

Board elects officers

As the meeting was the first of the year, the library board elected a chair and vice-chair for the term - a year - of the library board. Sally Howson will again serve as chair of the board, and Roberts will serve as vice-chair. The next meeting of the HCPL board takes place on Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. More information is available at haliburtonlibrary.ca or haliburton.civicweb.net.

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Enviro-Cafe fosters climate conversation

by NICK BERNARD
Times Staff

The public received an update on Haliburton County's climate change plan during an Enviro-Cafe presentation led by climate change co-ordinator Korey McKay on Jan. 11.

Organized by Environment Haliburton (EH), the event was led by opening remarks by EH president ... Susan Hay presented a stark observation of climate events that have unfolded across the world, calling 2021 a year of extremes.

"If there was ever any doubt about climate change, those doubts were washed away with half of British Columbia," Hay said. "Even if we've been lucky enough to escape the ravages of climate change, it is on our minds like never before."

Hay went on to introduce Terry Moore, EH's vice president and host of Planet Haliburton on Canoe FM. Moore also won the 2021 Haliburton Land Trust's Enviro-Hero award for education.

"Enviro-Cafes ... is part of Environment Haliburton's attempt to foster climate conversations across the county so that this community can do its part in addressing the climate emergency," Moore said before introducing McKay. "Climate scientists, the UN climate reports and summits – like the recently concluded 26th Conference of the Parties, or COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland in November – continue to remind us of the urgency of the climate challenge we face, the need for immediate and deep cuts to carbon emissions, and the rapid transition off of fossil fuels."

He remarked that in the face of what he perceived as failure of senior levels of government to stop the rise and reversal of greenhouse gasses, pressure to take climate action has instead been placed on municipal governments.

For its part, Haliburton County introduced its own climate change mitigation plan in November 2021, establishing emission reduction targets across the county and its municipalities. Those targets include reducing total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30 per cent across all county and municipal operations, with specific emission reduction targets within the municipalities themselves.

In Dysart et al, the target is to reduce corporate GHG emissions by 20 per cent for buildings, 10 per cent for fleet and 80 per cent for waste by 2030. A similar target is in place for Minden. In Algonquin Highlands, the reduction targets are the same, with the exception of fleet emissions, which are intended to be reduced by 12 per cent in the same time frame. Haliburton County and Highlands East's targets are to reduce corporate GHG emissions by 15 per cent across all operations.

The county is also working to create a climate adaptation plan, which will outline how the county will adapt its municipal assets, operations and services to prepare for the actual impacts of climate change. Following that, the county will introduce a community-wide climate change plan, with the same goal of reducing emissions and mitigating climate change's impact on the community at large. These plans have been spearheaded by McKay, who has served as climate change coordinator since

2019.

"When we're talking about climate change, we're referring to those long-term shifts in weather patterns," McKay said at the outset of her presentation. "So, the impacts of climate change, particularly in Ontario, are often summed up by the phrase 'warmer, wetter, and wilder.'"

Here in Haliburton, McKay described potential extreme heat events similar to the 2021 heat dome, which killed nearly 600 people in British Columbia. She also said the warmer weather would cause poor conditions for winter sports that depend on colder temperatures, like skiing and snowmobiling.

In regards to wet weather, McKay pointed to recent flooding events in the county, which have caused significant and costly damages. She also indicated the issue of ice storms which cause power outages, hazardous road conditions, and school closures.

"So, no matter if we have an elderly relative, or an avid skier, or if you live within a floodplain, climate change is impacting us today," she said. "The future impacts depend on the level of action we take globally, today."

In her presentation, McKay said Haliburton could expect to see a 2.2 degree Celsius rise in temperature by 2050. She also said the county can expect to see 17 very hot days (above 30 degrees Celsius) by 2050, compared to five very hot days, as reflected in the mean temperature from baseline studies conducted between 1976 and 2005. For winter temperatures, McKay said there may not be any days colder than -30 degrees Celsius by 2080, compared to six from the baseline.

Throughout the presentation, members of the public who were in attendance were able to use the meeting's chat function to ask questions, which would be answered following the presentation.

The question-and-answer round began with a question from Hay about methane emissions, and whether the county was considering building a municipal composting centre.

"So the corporate climate change mitigation plans that were approved by each council included the recommended action of exploring potential for organics diversion and for food waste," McKay responded. "The first step here is really to conduct a waste composition study across four seasons to get a more accurate picture of the food waste organics that are coming into landfill sites."

She said the county and municipalities were looking into creating what she called integrated waste management studies. Phase one of Dysart's integrated waste management study was sent to that council in a report in Jan 2021.

Carolynn Coburn, EH's treasurer, asked about the protection of wetlands which prompted an impromptu response from Haliburton County's warden Liz Danielsen.

"The only thing that I did want to say was that the issue of wetlands has been included in the draft shoreline preservation bylaw," Danielsen said, alluding to the shoreline preservation bylaw, for which a special meeting of the county council was held on Jan. 17. "And it's a recommendation by our consultants that we include wetlands in those protected areas. But that's a decision that is yet to be made ... But that is one area that ... is a possibility to protect wetlands."

To help explain what the county can do to preserve wetlands, McKay introduced Steve Stone, Haliburton County's director of planning. Stone said the first step in preserving wetlands is

“

So, no matter if we have an elderly relative, or an avid skier, or if you live within a floodplain, climate change is impacting us today. The future impacts depend on the level of action we take globally, today.

— KOREY MCKAY, CLIMATE CHANGE CO-ORDINATOR

”

with study, and garnering interest through educating the community – including events like the Enviro-Cafe.

"We should be facilitating continued learning on the environment, and monitoring social advantages of protecting small wetlands in regard to the well-being of our community," he explained. "And this is done, really, through academia, through the local knowledge transfer, etcetera. You take that study, and you build it into education programs, really, to foster awareness, in the broader community, of the many benefits of retaining small wetlands in our neighbourhoods."

Stone also said that establishing protection regulations and local zoning bylaws would allow the county and municipalities to implement equitable environmental rights, sustainable development practices, and compliance monitoring as needed.

EH secretary Katie Paroschay asked about reaching members of the community who are uninterested and even resistant to discussing the climate crisis. McKay responded by saying that while a Haliburton-specific community engagement plan was still in the works, part of its strategy will include changing the way people think about the benefits of acting on climate change mitigation.

"Energy prices are rising," she said. "And with the pandemic, a lot of people are struggling even just to put food on the table, so framing, you know, energy affordability as an issue is a lens to take ... So, communicating those different co-benefits that come with climate action can hopefully get more people on board as well."

McKay also addressed the subject of retrofitting existing homes and other buildings.

"Certainly building retrofitting is a topic within municipal climate plans," she said. "The tools municipalities have are somewhat limited. There is [the federal Canada Greener Homes Grant, for up to \$5,600 in retrofits], as well as ... a grant from what's called Haliburton Kawartha Renovates, so that's sort of a local grant."

According to their website, Haliburton Kawartha Renovates provides a forgivable loan to a maximum of \$10,000 for repairs such as roofs, plumbing, heating, foundations, wells and septic systems. A grant to a maximum of \$5,000 is also available for modifications to reduce physical barriers like ramps, handrails, chair and bath lifts and countertop height adjustments.

The full Enviro-Cafe presentation, which includes an explanation of the county's existing climate mitigation plan, and the full question and answer period will be available to view on Environment Haliburton's website at www.environmenthaliburton.org

Haliburton County's climate mitigation plan is currently available to view at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/en/planning-and-maps/climate-change.aspx




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HHSS Co-op Series

Co-op experience leads student to employment

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

The following is one in a series of stories, depicting Haliburton Highlands Secondary School co-op placements.

Ever since she was a young girl, Brooke Stover has loved animals.

The Grade 12 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student used this passion to embrace the co-op experience provided by the Minden Animal Hospital. The placement provided a hands-on experience and first-person insight in veterinary medicine bringing her closer to fulfilling her dream of helping animals by becoming a doctor of veterinary medicine.

The Archie Stouffer Elementary School graduate alternated between mornings and afternoons during the school week for the first semester. She performed tasks a vet assistant would carry out, which included assisting with animal treatment and examinations, weighing and cleaning up after animals, health inspections (looking for range of motion, skin conditions, overall healthy traits), clerical work, lab work – prepare slides and examine for anomalies and then alert the veterinarian about such findings.

It was only two weeks before school started in autumn that Stover said she knew she had a secured co-op placement.

"I didn't realize by the end of this co-op I'd get this many opportunities. I assumed that I'd be kind of learning a bit. Yes, getting experience, but I didn't realize it would lead me to a job and lead me to great things that I can put on an essay, or an application for school," she said, referring to how she was offered part-time work as a vet assistant. Brooke said her entire experience working was positive. Any time she asked a question, staff were ready to provide insight.

"I get full answers. It's really helped. I learned so much from just asking questions and listening to the staff," she said. "Everyone is so helpful."

"With that environment, it just made it so much easier to understand and get experience. It was just a nice place to be, working at. It's comfortable here and I'm excited about coming and I don't want to go to school. I just want to stay here," she said.

She earned two credits with her placement shifts, which were two and four hours this past semester. Stover said, the four credit, full day option wasn't possible with the six prerequisite courses needed for the university programs she was applying to enter this autumn.

Stover is striving for at least an 85 per cent average this year (and 90 per cent for scholarships). Her selections include the University of Guelph, the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia. Ideally, she would love to go to Guelph because of its zoology program, the community, the programs, students' opportunities and the student residence life, but is drawn to Victoria except it doesn't have zoology. As of press time, Brooke had decided to go to Guelph University.

The hospital's practice manager Tracey Laframboise said co-op education has always been a positive experience for everyone involved. Laframboise adds there is value in being able to offer this opportunity for not just high school students, but also college students, so they can gain experience.

"We feel co-op is very important for students, as it gives them a chance to 'try out' a job before spending the money to go to high-



Doctor of veterinary medicine Anna Thompson is helped during a checkup of a colleague's dog Lily by Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Grade 12 student Brooke Stover at the Minden Animal Hospital. Brooke was given the opportunity to gain hands-on experience at the hospital for her co-op placement, which she said was insightful. /DARREN LUM Staff

er education (college or university). They may start working and they find that the job isn't what they expected, and so they have a chance to change the area of interest for further education," she wrote in an email message. "Co-op also shows them what working is like (if they haven't had a job before), so it's not all about going to school. It is work experience."

Brooke's co-op placement education required in-class sessions. This included the completion of safety modules on WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) and protocols pertaining to preventing the transmission and contraction of COVID-19 before starting the placement and an end of the year culminating activity with a slide show of pictures, depicting what she learned. She also completed daily entries in a journal to document what she did and learned during co-op.

Despite the limited time for co-op, she still learned more than she thought she would before starting the experience.

"I guess you don't really know when you just bring a dog in ... I was surprised to know about the pharmacy, medication and how much chemistry, math goes into this. The lab work as well," she said.

Her experience included doing and observing, which included watching surgeries.

She said before the co-op placement the value behind getting good grades didn't have as much reason as it does now, which included putting her theoretical knowledge to the test.

"What you learn is important. It's not like you're going to learn it in high school, forget it and never use it again. I did realize you're going to use it again. Whereas I used to think learn it, memorize it, but it doesn't matter," she said.

Her motivation when it comes to learning at school goes beyond just the marks on her report card.

"That was my motivation. I think it did change to now I want to learn all these things. Yes, get the marks, but just how much I've learned from lis-

tening and applying it. I think it's nice to know more," she said.

This includes chemistry, which has included applying her theoretical knowledge to the lab work she completed.

Laframboise added the hospital has also offered placements to college students and that when things go well a job offer follows.

"For the college student placements it gives the experience in the field they are in so that they feel more confident going into the field they graduate from. When the students are good they may get a job offer. We have hired Brooke and we just had our last co-op student work with us up to going to university to study," Laframboise said.

Brooke was hired as a vet assistant, working Saturdays fulfilling the same duties as



Grade 12 student Brooke Stover examines a sample, as part of lab work she did during her first semester co-op placement.

she performed during the co-op. She was recently promoted to be an animal care attendant, which has expanded her role to include follow-ups with patients, answering phones, and billing.

Since she had such a positive and rewarding experience, Brooke has been sharing the benefits of a co-op placement with others.

"I've been telling everyone younger than me, my sister and her friends that you should definitely do it because it just shows you what you're getting yourself into. Before you go and pay thousands and go through all this schooling, [it's important] I want to do it and know what it's like," she said.

The choice to not do it was easy, but she is glad she made the effort to see this opportunity realized.

"I'm so glad that I did because I really didn't realize how much it would help me," she said. "Really, there is only so much you can learn out of a textbook, so when you come and apply it you learn a lot more."



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Donna Lee McKnight remembered with happy tears

by SUE TIFFIN
Editor

When Linda Robertson and Wendy Connnelly sit together to speak in memory of their friend, Donna Lee McKnight, they spend much of the time laughing.

That's how they spent time together throughout McKnight's life, too. McKnight, a Minden resident, who was recovering in the hospital after a medical event on Dec. 4 died unexpectedly on Jan. 4, leaving her friends with much sadness but also happy fun-filled memories.

"I probably met her when she was first born, because her family was kind of connected with mine," said Connnelly, remembering their friendship beginning as "very little girls."

As noted in her obituary, born to Lloyd and Edith McKnight, living with brothers Lloyd "Snuffy" and Brian at home, McKnight "grew up in a house filled with music, and she was seldom without her guitar."

"When we were all growing up, [Brian] would play for dances and we'd all be there," said Connnelly. "My family was musical, her family was all musical, so we kind of just all ... partied."

"And Donna liked to do that," laughed Robertson. "Wherever there was country music, that's where you saw Donna Lee. As long as I can remember."

Robertson met McKnight through Robertson's sister, Doris, who had accompanied McKnight on a trip to Scotland several years back.

"After that, she just kind of integrated into our family, you know?" said Robertson. "At



Donna Lee McKnight waves to her friends watching after she somehow found herself riding alongside a jockey at an outing to the horse races. /Photo submitted by Linda Robertson

Christmas time and Easter and every special occasion, Donna always came and had dinner

with my family. Donna became very much a part of our family."

McKnight also became part of Robertson and Connnelly's band, the Country Hot Flashes, in her own way, coming along to events like the Country Music Jamboree in Coboconk as the band's sort of roadie.

"She was always there to help out," said Robertson. "She helped us with the equipment, helped us take the money at the door, and she'd get up and sing at open mic. She was very involved with us girls. She was always there."

McKnight's love for country music - "There's only one kind of music," she once quipped - led her to follow the work of musicians whenever she could. When she lived in Oshawa, she followed people like Rick Jones, Harold MacIntyre, Todd Nolan and Johnny Burke.

"He used to do a lot of music down in the Oshawa area," said Robertson. "Every night of the week she would work, and after work she'd go to wherever he was playing."

It was the connection she made with Todd Nolan, a production manager and audio engineer, that led to McKnight checking off an item on her life's bucket list - creating a music CD alongside her friends, Robertson, Connnelly and Connie Sawyer, who called themselves Four of a Kind.

"She was so proud of it," said Robertson. "She was still flogging those CDs down at bingo. I don't know how many she sold, quite a few down there. 'Guess what, I'm on this CD!' 'Really? Well, where can I buy it?' 'I have one right here!'"

The experience was special for all four in the group.

"We had some good memories of doing

see MCKNIGHT page 13

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Grant funding available to local start-ups

by ANGELICA INGRAM
Special to the Times

Since signing up for ShopCloseBuy.ca, Kyla Grexton has been amazed at the local support and assistance she has received. The creator behind Keep Me In Stitchez, Grexton makes handmade baby gifts, blankets, dishcloths and much more.

Grexton signed on for the local website as a new avenue to sell her items and expand her online presence.

"The local aspect was a HUGE determining factor. The support and promotion are why I'll stay," she said.

ShopCloseBuy.ca is a local initiative that offers an online presence for businesses and organizations to promote their unique items, experiences and more. The online website was created in Haliburton County by TechnicalitiesPlus and its mandate is to promote the wonderful offerings within the area to a broader audience.

Thanks to funding from the Haliburton County Development Corporation through the Local Initiatives Project (LIP), there are currently a number of grant opportunities for local businesses to sign up with ShopCloseBuy.ca.

Grexton is one of the LIP recipients and is happy to support a local website and keep her dollars in the community.

"I would rather my money stay local so this was perfect. I cringe at the likes of Amazon, so it's an honour to be part of a local option," Grexton said. "I truly hope the best for all at ShopCloseBuy.ca because they are doing great things for small businesses."

Through a partnership between SIRCH and TechnicalitiesPlus, the grants are available from now until the end of February and the application process is very inclusive and straightforward, Christine Hewitt of ShopCloseBuy.ca said.

"The qualifying process is very simple, they basically have a conversation with me," Hewitt said. "They don't have to jump through a lot of hoops to be approved and then we take care of everything for free for five months."

Businesses that apply and are selected will receive a multitude of benefits, including social media coaching and promotion, enhanced online marketing and much more through TechnicalitiesPlus and SIRCH. Selected entrepreneurs will have an opportunity to showcase their wares in the village of Haliburton and have their commission reduced for the first three months.

"It's a great partnership in that SIRCH can provide a new business, or one that is struggling financially, an opportunity to sell their products at the (SIRCH) Marketplace ... this is designed to give them support and leverage for their business, have more exposure physically in the Marketplace which is great and, then in addition to that, they get a professional video developed about their business," Hewitt said.

Described as a local Amazon, ShopCloseBuy.ca has a variety of items for sale, from locally made hand-blown beer glasses to fitness classes.

The LIP grant is available for new businesses, defined as those that have been around for one year or less, and those that have made less than \$35,000 in the year 2020. The grant lasts for five months.



Christine Hewitt, from left, of ShopCloseBuy.ca and SIRCH marketing and sales coordinator Eric Wolfe model Warm Heart Mitts at the SIRCH Marketplace last week. The mitts are the creation of Andrea Lopez, who is one of the vendors that has successfully received a Local Initiative Project grant through SIRCH and ShopCloseBuy.ca. LIP is accepting applications for grants from now until the end of February. /Submitted

There are a total of 20 grants available and 10 local businesses have already taken advantage of the program. Interested businesses have until the end of February to apply, however the sooner you apply the better.

"It's a great community effort and we have the funds," Hewitt said. "We need to get the word out, we want businesses to take advantage of this to help support their business."

Grexton has been doing her part to spread the word about this opportunity to other local artisans and creators.

"I have been telling others about it just based on the support alone. I have done tech support in the past, so when someone goes above and beyond in the support department, I tend to make sure others know that they won't be left to flounder. With the way a lot of customer service is these days, this is such a huge thing," she said.

In addition to for profit businesses, ShopCloseBuy.ca is available to not-for-profit organizations and charities, and has great online auction capabilities. Each vendor on the site has their own custom/brand vendor page, with a description of their business, contact information, social media links and much more.

"ShopCloseBuy.ca is as much a marketing site as it is an e-

commerce site," Hewitt said. She adds that some businesses have even gained volunteers through the site.

"The goal is to create a mini-Amazon," she said. "You can sell, promote, auction, market your business, no matter what it is."

With the pandemic events of the past year-and-a-half, many people are turning to online sites to shop and Hewitt points to this site as a great way to keep dollars in our community.

Marketing and sales coordinator for SIRCH Community Services, Eric Wolfe agrees and is excited to be working with businesses to help promote their offerings.

"If you've got this great idea and don't know where to go with it ... this gives them the platform to get their foot in the door."

Wolfe will work with each applicant to create an individualized plan.

"We've got this opportunity here, please reach out. How often do you have someone say we want to help you market your business at no cost," he said.

For more information about ShopCloseBuy.ca or to apply for the grant visit www.shopclosebuy.ca or email info@shopclosebuy.ca or call 705-457-9977.

McKnight known for humour, kindness

from page 12

that CD, and Donna Lee was always, I guess what you'd call a tomboy," said Robertson. "She didn't like makeup and wouldn't put a dress on or anything like that, but the day we did the photo shoot, we all had to get some makeup on and all that. That was quite the experience too. Getting her lipstick on, makeup, do her hair, that was quite out of character for her but she went along with it."

McKnight rarely wore makeup, but she was seen from time to time with it on when she showed up at events as her alter ego, Aunt Martha.

"She never said anything to anybody, but she'd disappear and come back as Aunt Martha," said Robertson. "All of a sudden, Donna would come up missing, and then she'd show up as Aunt Martha." "With a pail and a mop," laughed Connelly, of Aunt Martha's

props, which she danced around the room with no matter the audience. The costume included makeup, which Robertson noted, "was a little different."

"From your nose right down to your chin," laughed Connelly.

"She really did miss her calling," said Robertson. "She should have been a comedian. She was right full of one-liners. You never knew what she was going to say next or do next."

Besides her comical side, McKnight was known for her kindness.

"She was very kind and caring about other people," said Robertson. "She'd give you the last dollar she had in her purse, that's the kind of person she was. If she thought you needed it more than her, she'd give it to you. She was very generous. She never really had a lot of money, but she always made sure everybody was looked after when it came to gifts."

Never forgot your birthday, or anything like that."

After her death, people spoke to that kindness, including people who knew her through her friendship with the Haliburton County Red Wolves, her work at the Minden Curling Club, at the Minden Legion, or at Easton's Valu-Mart, where one customer noted that due to her own eyesight, McKnight would act as her eyes and help her with her shopping. McKnight was known to help out wherever she could, even if someone was needed in a last-minute role at the beef barbecue or fair.

"It didn't matter, if somebody said they needed a hand with something, she was right there," said Robertson.

A celebration of life will eventually be planned for McKnight, one filled with music, fun, laughter, and perhaps a costume or two.

"We're sure gonna miss her," said Robertson.



GET TO KNOW THE HUSKIES: NICK ATHANASASKOS

Haliburton County Huskies forward Nick Athanasaskos has dreams of playing for an American university. /FILE DARREN LUM Staff



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Answers on page 21

When the 2021-22 season got underway, many of the players were established veterans with a few seasons of playing under their belt. However, for a lot of Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) players they are first year rookies.

One of the rookies shining for the Haliburton County Huskies is forward Nick Athanasaskos. With a total of 13 points (five goals and nine assists), Athanasaskos has been a welcome addition to the Huskies offence with his numbers putting him in the top five for points on the roster.

Starting his junior career with the Toronto Red Wings of the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL), Athanasaskos was originally going to be playing for the Prince George Spruce Kings of the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL). However, his plans to go out west were foiled by the pandemic. However, that didn't stop him from pursuing his hockey dreams elsewhere.

"I was originally supposed to start my hockey career in Prince George," Athanasaskos said. "It didn't end up working out, so I made a few calls and coach Ryan Ramsay really wanted me to come to the Huskies. I said, yes, and it's been going really well, so I'm happy I made the decision."

With the team being based in a small community, most of the players billet as opposed to living at home. This has allowed the players to spend more time together, a small detail which has helped the team perform even better on ice.

Athanasaskos believes this is the closest he has been with any hockey team he has ever played on, and this has helped his game grow exponentially.

"As a team we like to hang out with each other outside of the rink," Athanasaskos added. "This is the closest I've been with any hockey team I've played with and I think the closeness of our group translates to our one-ice success. We know everything about each other. We are a group of brothers who trust and believe in each other."

Hockey has always been in his blood since he was young, starting to play the game at the age of three after watching his older sister play. After some initial push-back from him, as young kids tend to do when first learning to skate, Athanasaskos fell in love with the game and never looked back.

"When I was about three I saw my older sister playing hockey," Athanasaskos said. "I got really upset because I really wanted to play, I told my parents and they bought me some skates. The first couple times I hated [it] and kept crying, but my parents let me get a few go's at it and I fell in love with the game."

When on the ice, Athanasaskos wears a rather unconventional number: that being No. 91. Hailing from Markham, Ontario, a suburb of Toronto, the area has produced some top hockey stars in both Europe and the NHL. Some notable hockey players being Gillian Apps, Bob Beckett and hockey broadcasters Joe Bowen and James Duthie have all called Markham their home at some point.

However, the most famous name is Athanasaskos' hockey hero and the man who he chose to emulate in picking the number on his back in honour of: two-time Stanley Cup champion Steven Stamkos.

"I grew up in Markham, so I kinda looked

up to Steven Stamkos," Athanasaskos explained. "I had the choice to pick my number and luckily No. 91 was available. With Steven Stamkos being one of my heroes I didn't hesitate to pick it and it's been pretty good to me so far."

Before the season postponement, the Huskies managed to rack up a record of 18-9-1-1 putting them second in the division, which is only two points behind first place Trenton. The season has been packed full of exciting moments for the team from big wins against Trenton and North York, to the team going on two separate five-plus game win streaks.

Athanasaskos offered some of his favourite memories from the first half of the season.

"We beat Trenton twice in their home rink," Athanasaskos said. "But we also have a lot of fun off ice. We like to go ice fishing and we are currently in the process of making an outdoor rink. Spending time with the guys especially on the bus ride home after a game is a memory that I will never forget."

With many players using the OJHL as a stepping stone for their next chapter, Athanasaskos hopes he can follow in the footsteps of many league players and sign an NCAA D1 (National Collegiate Athletic Association Division One) scholarship to play hockey for an American university.

"My dream is to earn an NCAA D1 scholarship," said Athanasaskos. "I still got two years or so to go but I've wanted this not just for hockey but for the education side as well. I'm really interested in psychology so I'd love to become a therapist or a sports psychologist outside of hockey if my career ever does come to an end. I always keep that in the back of my mind but hockey is still something I want to pursue."

Earlier this season, Athanasaskos' teammate Oliver Tarr signed with Canisius College in Buffalo. Tarr is the first player from the team to sign a college deal. Athanasaskos still has a few more years left to play and he hopes during that time he can impress a lot of schools and improve every single season.

Working under coach Ramsay has been a great experience, whether a game is a win or loss there is always so much passion being put on display each night. Ramsay gave Athanasaskos a shot on the team and the Markham player isn't taking his chance for granted. Athanasaskos is giving it his all every night to perform at the high level the coach expects.

"Coach Ramsay has been one of the biggest parts to our team's success this year," Athanasaskos said. "He is a coach who is really passionate and it really fuels the rest of the guys on the team. You can really see that he wants to win and that energy is pushed on to us, as a team we are really competitive and having Ryan as a coach he really knows what he is talking about and we learn a lot."

For Athanasaskos, his experience in Haliburton County has been one he will never forget. While the season isn't over, he already hopes to return to the team next season. His on-ice play has been some of the best of his career, but Athanasaskos does have a very special hidden talent off the ice.

"I can solve a Rubik's Cube in about 58 seconds," Athanasaskos said. "So that is one interesting thing that I think most of the fans here don't know yet."

Paul Wilson celebrates winning solution

by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

At the end of what would've been the 2020-21 season, the OJHL's Whitby Fury weren't drawing very well. The team was among the bottom in attendance and needed a change, enter owner Paul Wilson and his team who helped come up with a winning solution.

Being from Haliburton, Wilson and his team filed the paperwork to move the team to Minden Hills and the new S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The team now sees sell-out crowds almost every night, and for Wilson he couldn't be happier.

While it might seem tough for a team to succeed in a small market like Haliburton County, a lot of things went into the decision and has helped give the team the best chance it can.

"We sold 251 season tickets," Wilson said. "I approached everyone that I knew was a hockey fan, all the local businesses and the response was just wonderful. A lot of people didn't know what Junior A hockey was and I hope that because these people have come out and seen how good the hockey is, I think we should have no issue doing just as good next year."

The community really rallied around the team. Fans supporting in droves, from cottagers to locals and everyone in between. Businesses have stepped up to sponsor the team, with the Huskies having one of the most decked out jerseys in the league. Companies like NFTC, Minden Subaru, Minden Auto Care and Dollo's Foodland are among the companies that can be seen on team uniforms during game days, but the list of partners extends a lot further.

Sitting among the top five in attendance, one of the only things limiting the Huskies is the amount of seats in the arena itself. However, the team plans to add in some indoor seating in the banquet hall come playoff time. Pending any updates to public health in Ontario, Wilson aims to pack the S.G. Nesbitt once the season is back underway.

"The county is not just a hockey county, but a place that sticks together," Wilson continued. "They support things and I'm so impressed because I knew they would rally together to help us make this team work. I won't lie, I never imagined it would become this successful but I do wish we had more seats in the arena!"

Wilson has ties to the Huskies that go back many, many years. Playing for the original Haliburton Huskies in the late 1960s, he was on the team that made it to the Ontario finals in Junior D. During that run, the team won the first two games but went on to drop four to end up losing the series 4-2.

Wilson didn't play the next season to attend the University of Toronto, but that season happened to be the year the Huskies became the 1971 OHA D Championship winners. Learning about his former team defeat the Exeter Hawks was disappointing for Wilson because he could've been a part of that team. However, more than 40 years later and Wilson is now back with the Huskies in a new era of hockey.

"I played for the Huskies when I was a teenager," Wilson said. "When the team first came here people questioned why I didn't call the team the Monarchs since it was based in Minden. The reason behind that is the only way this team could be successful is if it represented the county as a whole. It couldn't be one city or the other, so it was imperative to me



Haliburton County Huskies have been an OJHL (Ontario Junior Hockey League) success story for owner, Paul Wilson, at back. MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock Laurie Scott spoke about the team at Queens Park recently. Scott came to a game before the holidays to drop the puck for Huskies captain Nathan Porter, far left, and Toronto Jr. Canadiens captain Liam Fedak on Dec. 17 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. /FILE DARREN LUM Staff

that it was a county team. "

Wilson owned the team for two years prior to the relocation to Minden, and part of his reason for buying the Whitby Fury was that hockey runs in Wilson's family. Wilson played in his youth and his son-in-law and Huskies head coach Ryan Ramsay has a long history of pro hockey, having played three seasons in the AHL (American Hockey League) and seven seasons in the German DEL (Deutsche Eishockey Liga).

The team had on-ice success in Whitby, but off-ice it was a different story.

"We had little fan interest in Whitby," added Wilson. "We also received little to no compensation from the town of Whitby and we had to pay for full ice rates. Luckily, after the move to Minden Hills they were willing to work with us on these things. We upgraded the dressing room and we added in a whole bunch of other cosmetic features, in return they gave us things like reduced ice rates and a seven-year deal."

The pandemic has been tough on so many people and the Huskies gave the county a chance to relax and take a breather. A chance to join together and cheer for a common shared interest. All this couldn't have been done without the hard work for all the staff and volunteers that help make game-day experiences the best they can be, the sponsors, the fans that come out each night, and notably the billet families that have welcomed the players with open arms.

With most of the players coming from outside Haliburton County, the Huskies rely on billet families more than any other team in the league. Wilson knows it's been a secret to

the team's success because it has helped the players get to know each other better, raise team morale and overall build a strong camaraderie.

The success of the team has not gone unnoticed by the league. Wilson has received many positive letters from the OJHL, mentioning that other small communities have caught the hockey bug after watching Minden draw so well.

"The league is thrilled," said Wilson. "Not only have we turned around a franchise that wasn't doing so hot, but I'm confident if we keep getting community support with season tickets and such we can run a balanced budget. I want to do more things like [continue] inviting the minor hockey players to the games. It was great to see the 60 or so parents and grandparents there. The autograph signing was amazing and I was shocked to see so many people coming out for that so I'm thrilled for the future."

Wilson cares about this team a lot and truly believes in the community of Haliburton County. Being raised in the community as a child, Wilson relishes the chance to give back and create something that has united a county during such a tough time. Sport is something that unites the world, in the darkest of days and toughest of times and going to a hockey game with the family is second to none to help build morale.

Wilson believes so much in Haliburton County because the county believed so much in him. As the season continues, it's only up for the Huskies in 2023 and beyond.

Rose and Robinson join Huskies

by ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Times

Following the OJHL (Ontario Junior Hockey League) trade deadline, the Haliburton County Huskies have announced a significant move to improve the team's defence by acquiring Simon Rose. The 20-year-old last played for the OHL's (Ontario Hockey League) North Bay Battalion. He played five seasons with the Battalion, scoring 42 points with nine goals during his time in the OHL. Having a very successful under-18 career with the Pembroke Lumber Kings, Rose was named a top prospect ahead of the 2017-18 OHL draft.

The Ottawa resident was a highly sought-after signing and made the choice to come to Haliburton County.

"I'm excited to be here," Rose said. "Things just didn't work out in North Bay and coach Ryan Ramsay called up and brought me here to help the team win a championship. I know

a lot of guys already like Christian Stevens, Christian Cicigoi and Nathan Porter from North Bay so I'm excited to be here."

Ramsay, who is also the Huskies general manager, has been interested in Rose for a while and was ecstatic to bring in a quality player to the Huskies blue line.

"He was a guy who brought in some experience," Ramsay said. "We've had him on our radar for a while now and it's nice to get the guy you want. He had his choice of nearly the whole league. He is a puck moving defenceman with good insight. He is going to be a huge part back there for us for our run down the stretch."

In an unrelated move, the team traded Josh Vagenas to the Oakville Blades to free up some space on the roster. Vagenas had been acquired from the Milton Menace on Oct. 19, and since then has only started six games due to suffering an injury. Not wanting Vagenas to simply sit on the bench all year, Ramsay wanted to give him a chance to play this season.

"He is a good young player but he got hurt when he came,"

continued Ramsay. "As a GM you see these kids every day and he is a good kid and I want to see him do well. We brought in Simon and I don't want Josh to sit in the stands for the rest of the season. We figured it was crucial for his development for us to trade him and give him a chance to play."

The Huskies have also signed centreman Dylan Robinson from the Ottawa 67s. The 19-year-old played the last three seasons in the OHL, splitting time between Ottawa and Oshawa. Scoring 21 (nine goals and 11 assists) points in a combined 63 games, Robinson will wear No.52 while playing for the Huskies.

With the Ontario government's return to modified Step Two set to end on Jan. 26, the team has been skating on lakes in small groups to keep ready. With the next home game to be played on Jan. 28, the Huskies will be looking forward to getting a strong start back on home ice.

MINDEN HILLS
THE TOWNSHIP OF
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

**COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
APPLICATION FOR MINOR VARIANCE
THIS MEETING WILL BE HEARD AS AN ELECTRONIC HEARING BY WAY OF A
VIRTUAL MEETING**

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Committee of Adjustment of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Hearing on:

DATE: MONDAY, January 31, 2022

TIME: 10:30 AM

LOCATION: Due to the physical distancing requirements imposed as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held as an electronic hearing by way of a **virtual meeting**.

To participate

Join the meeting by telephone by dialing either: 1-647-374-4685 OR 1-647-558-0588

Enter Meeting ID 857 9538 9205 and Passcode: 565968

Join the meeting using a computer or smart phone at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85795389205?pwd=bzFwdERwZit4aHplbnBmQWJla3dDQT09>

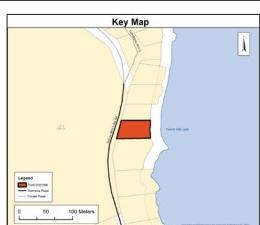
Members of the public are welcome to watch the Committee of Adjustment meeting by joining YouTube at:
<https://youtu.be/-ca7xt3BKB0>

Members of the public wishing to **participate and make comment/speak** at the Public Hearing must pre-register by emailing dsisson@mindenhills.ca by Friday January 28th before 4:00 PM or by attending and registering the morning of the meeting before 10:00 AM. Participants registering after 10:00 AM will not be permitted into the public hearing.

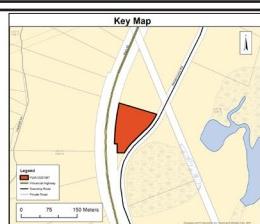
Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the hearing as permitted by the Chair. Please note the live-stream link provided for each hearing will only be activated while Committee of Adjustment is in session.

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider minor variance applications **PLMV2021086**, **PLMV2021087** and **PLMV2021089** and the proposed Minor Variances to the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law pursuant to Section 45 of the Planning Act. The minor variance applications for Public Hearing are listed below:

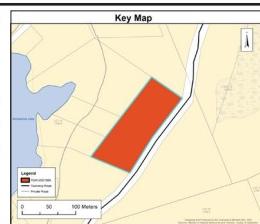
PLMV2021086 – Part Lot 8, Concession 10, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1534 Twelve Mile Lake Road; and located on Twelve Mile Lake (see Key Map).



PLMV2021087 – Part Lot 11, Concession 10, Geographic Township of Lutterworth; municipally known as 1065 Hendersons Road (see Key Map).



PLMV2021089 – Part Lot 13, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Minden; municipally known as 1287 Duck Lake Road (see Key Map).



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding these applications are available online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. Copies of the complete applications will be available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only.

HAVE YOUR SAY: Input on the above noted applications is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Township. If you do not attend the public meeting, it may proceed in your absence and, except as otherwise provided in The Planning Act, you will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceedings.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: To provide input in writing, or to request written notice of the decision, please contact the undersigned or e-mail adougherty@mindenhills.ca.

ANY PERSON OR AGENCY WHO IS OF THE OPINION THAT HOLDING THE HEARING AS AN ELECTRONIC HEARING IS LIKELY TO CAUSE THEM SIGNIFICANT PREJUDICE, may make a submission to the undersigned, and if the Committee is satisfied that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause the party significant prejudice then the hearing will be re-scheduled as an oral hearing.

ACCESSIBILITY: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. **If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.**

PRIVACY DISCLOSURE: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

For more information about this matter contact adougherty@mindenhills.ca.

Amanda Dougherty
Township Planning Consultant
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment
P.O. Box 359, 7 Milne Street, Minden ON, K0M 2K0

Pandemic continues drawing people to Nordic trails

by STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Times

For so many, the last two years of the pandemic has included our winters of discontent.

The COVID crisis, which we now know is worsened in winter, leads to shuttered schools, boarded up businesses, empty theatres and malls. But it's also leading people, in the face of so much down time, to discover new leisure activities; ones that are safe, healthy and outdoors.

As a result, there's been a boom in cross-country skiing, says Thom Lambert, the president of the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail & Ski Club Association. He says that in 2020-2021 the club saw memberships rise to record levels. This winter, it's down slightly, owing, he suspects, to the lack of snow, but still high with 180 individual members and 120 family memberships.

He says other cross-country clubs in Ontario are experiencing similar rises and, on any given day, the parking lot attached to a well-groomed cross-country ski trail will most likely be packed.

"When I go to one of our areas, I see a parking lot with 40 cars in it; it's people being outside, getting fresh air, not being in front of a screen. It's something that gives us something to look forward to in this long hard winter."

When COVID ravaged Ontario in the winter of 2020-2021, the Ontario government shut down numerous non-essential activities and many downhill ski resorts were closed. However, cross-country skiing routes were kept open, because they were considered safe, as the sport takes place outdoors and can be done with physical distancing.

The unintended consequence of that, Lambert says, is new people discovering and falling in love with the activity. He says the association's Jackrabbit program, which is a series of weekly training sessions on Saturdays for young cross-country skiers, has more than 80 registrants this year, another record number.

"That speaks to the fact that families and young skiers are being exposed to the sport; some people are going to keep doing it," he said.

Lambert, a cross-country skier with more than 40 years of experience himself, says he loves the sport because it provides great exercise in beautiful outdoor settings. Cross-country skiing, he says, doesn't lead to the same type of joint pain that runners experience; people in their 80s can do it. Another one of its perks is that it's affordable, given

that it doesn't take a heavy toll on equipment. A good pair of skis can last 30 years, Lambert said.

The Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail Association has three trail systems that it maintains. As long as there's enough snow on the ground, each is groomed to allow for the two styles of cross-country skiing: classic, the style which involves following two grooves in the ground, and skate skiing, which requires a wider path as skiers will be pushing their legs back and to the side, similar to skating as the name suggests.

The Glebe Park trail offers 13.5 kilometres, including 1.5 kilometres lit for night skiing. The trail is right in the village of Haliburton, off Fleming College Drive and is considered challenging.

Then there's the 12.5-kilometre Moosewoods trail, which is off County Road 14, near Eagle Lake. It's considered an "easy to intermediate" trail.

There's also Twin Lakes, a seven-kilometre trail which is also considered "easy to intermediate" and "dog friendly." It's located on 12 Mile Lake Road off Hwy. 35, between Minden and Carnavon.

As of mid-January, the Moosewoods Trail was completely open, but parts of Glebe Park and Twin Lakes were closed, due to the lack of snow.

"We're 10 centimetres away from having really good conditions," Lambert said at the time.

But when the snow falls, the association's army of volunteers begin to get the trails ready. Lambert says about 1,500 volunteer hours are put into making each season a success; that involves the almost daily task of grooming trails and keeping the membership system up and running.

A family pass for the season (which involves any combination of parents and children totalling five) is \$275; an individual season pass is \$145. The passes give access to all three trails. A day pass to use a trail is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children.

Lambert calls the day rate "the best deal in the world."

The association takes pride in grooming the trails well and making sure they're accessible, knowing that the Haliburton Highlands has a high senior population and people who need safe, enjoyable and reasonably priced fitness activities.

"These trails make Haliburton Highlands a better place to live, there's no doubt in my mind," he said.

For details on the Ski Club Association, visit www.skihaliburton.com.



When life gives you snow ...

A group of young Nordic skiers make their way across the snow during the first instructional Nordic skiing Jackrabbit program session of the season on Saturday, Jan. 15 at Glebe Park in Haliburton. The program is offered annually throughout January and February by The Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail and Ski Club Association. Close to 80 young Nordic skiers registered this year for the youth programs. /DARREN LUM Staff

Honour roll and big goals for Highlands Warrior

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Walking through Head Lake Park with the chill in the air and the snow on the ground, Sterling Nesbitt said these are some of the aspects of winter she has missed since going to attend Indiana Tech university on an academic scholarship, which included a roster spot for the Warriors women's hockey team.

The few months away from home for the former Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student reminded her how much she appreciates the place, winter and the people of the area.

"I love how small town we are and you can walk around and say hello to seven different people," she said. "But I love my snow. I love seeing it and not seeing that in Indiana it's weird. Like when December hit and there was still no snow and it was messing with my head."

It was a small price to pay to have an opportunity to play high-level hockey for the Warriors, who are based in Fort Wayne where winter is mild, offering little to no snow. The team is in its first year and competes in the ACHA (American Collegiate Hockey Association) Women's Division One.

Before the holidays in December, the Warriors were ranked third in the ACHA Women's Division I National Rankings. Indiana Tech moved up three spots in the fifth regular season edition of the rankings and have been ranked for all polls since the program has began play. Eight teams will qualify for the 2022 ACHA Women's Division 1 National Championships at the end of the season.

There's no denying how the U.S. and Canada are similar.

One difference Sterling can't get over is the colour of the currency, which has given her some challenges when making purchases. The uniformity of the currency with its green colour is a stark contrast to the multi-coloured Canadian currency.

"And the other thing is, just the general politeness," she said.

Coming into the season, she didn't expect to finish the season with more than three points. However, her scoring punch has been evident, nearly averaging a point a game, alternating between defence and the forward position.

"My biggest thing was just like making sure I was in the right spot positionally because with defence you just kind of hang out on the blueline until the puck moves or the other team moves towards you. But with forward you've got to be able to put yourself in a spot where your team can make plays off of it," she said.

Her background as a defenceman, she said, has resulted in better breakout plays because she knows where she would want the forward to be positioned.

Indiana Tech head coach, Scott Hicks said Sterling has been an important player for the team on defence and offence, averaging more than 20 minutes per game.

"Sterling has tremendous desire to learn. She has worked her butt off since day one and her improvement has been noticeable. Off the ice she has been extremely successful in the classroom and has made honour roll," he wrote in an email. "She has been a player that has scored some big goals for us in our first half. Putting up 11 points as a defenceman in her freshman year so far is a big deal and we have counted on her numerous times in big spots to win games!"

He added the Highlands hockey player has the potential to be a 20-point per season



player. Her confidence on offence continues to grow, as her confidence grows.

"She is regularly out in crunch time. Her ability to be aggressive and apply pressure defensively is big for us to close out wins down the stretch," he wrote.

Her speed he said is "invaluable" and has been an asset that enables her scoring chances for herself and teammates. She is a "solid offensive defenceman and we will look to continue to grow her offensive side of her game!"

For three years, Sterling attended the athletic private high school, the Ontario Hockey Academy based in Cornwall after one year at HHSS where she set a record in track and field for midget girls. She matured during her time at the boarding school, figuring out life without parents and managing her time, balancing life, academics with athletics.

This latest experience living away from home in another country with a high-performing team has pushed her to grow more.

"It's really showing me how much I've actually grown. I mean, I used to not think about it a lot and kind of just chose not to acknowledge how much I've grown, but with the coaching staff I have they've really allowed me to look at myself better. Not only as a player, but as a person. And just kind of realize how much self-growth I've done since I've been in Indiana," she said.

Her reference to being better as a person is attributed to her self-confidence and growth in becoming an adult. This also includes being responsible for oneself and accountable "no matter what the situation is."

Any adjustment challenges were overcome, she said, by virtue of her teammates, who are all going through similar things. She points out with the exception of one player, everyone is in their first year of school. She adds the coach, Hicks uses his many years of experience with running hockey programs to help. He's told them that it's okay to feel stress, but that it's important to push through "the mental part of that in order to build yourself up [to be] better."

Any homesickness or yearning to know what's happening up on the Highlands, is alleviated by staying connected with loved

Sterling Nesbitt has missed the people the most since she left for Indiana Tech with an academic scholarship and roster spot with the university's women's hockey team, the Warriors. Nesbitt has been a clutch performer according to her coach Scott Hicks, who has used the former Red Hawks athlete at defence and at forward. / DARREN LUM Staff

nexion. Because you always hear stories of people's kids moving away and never talking to them again. And I just love my family and my friends. And they're not something I want to shy away from," she said.

Her mother and father have been her biggest fans and supporters, driving thousands of miles and investing thousands in giving their daughter the opportunities for athletics, academics and life.

Cindy said her daughter has always been independent and mature, but she's taken another step in her maturity.

"Since moving away, I've seen her become an adult who has set her mind to achieve goals and become a role-model for other young female athletes. Wyatt [her father] and I flew to Nebraska in September to surprise and see Sterling play for her first collegiate game," she wrote in an email.

The parents have also made two road trips to watch their daughter play.

Sterling said if she could offer advice to "future me" it would be: "Just stay on top of everything and don't let off because when you stay on top of things, especially with hockey, you have good outcomes like our weekend with Adrian [College]."

The weekend Sterling is referring to is when the Warriors, who were No. 7 in the ACHA, beat No. 2 Adrian College in two straight games, 4-3 and 2-0 before the holiday break.

Sterling smiles, set against a blue winter sky above Head Lake and without hesitation said, "We genuinely think we have a good shot at being the first team to go to nationals that is a fresh new team. So, a lot of us are really striving for that and I just hope that we can just keep building off that."



2022 Municipal Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee Members

The Corporations of the Township of Algonquin Highlands, the Township of Minden Hills, the Municipality of Dysart et al and the Municipality of Highlands East, are currently seeking interested applicants from professionals who are required to adhere to codes of standards of their profession, and other individuals with in depth knowledge of the campaign financing rules of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996 for appointment to a Joint Compliance Audit Committee.

The Joint Compliance Audit Committee has full delegation of the authority in the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996, to address applications requesting an audit of a candidate's election campaign finances. This authority includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Review applications and grant or reject audit requests
- Where an audit is granted, appoint an auditor and review the audit report
- Where indicated, decide whether legal proceedings shall be commenced.

The Joint Compliance Audit Committee will consist of members appointed by each Council. Committee members must have the ability to understand and apply the election campaign finance provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996 and should be considered impartial with respect to their ability to fulfill their responsibilities. Preference shall be given to candidates that have applicable experience in accounting, law, law enforcement and academics from related fields.

Preferred Qualifications:

- (a) Accounting and audit – accountants or auditors with experience in preparing or auditing the financial statements of municipal candidates;
- (b) Academic – college or university professors with expertise in political science or local government administration;
- (c) Legal; and
- (d) Other individuals with knowledge of the campaign financing rules of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996.

Members of the public interested in serving on this Committee are asked to submit a resume, and covering letter, marked "Confidential" no later than Noon on January 28, 2022 to:

Robyn Rogers, Clerk
Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East
2249 Loop Road, P.O. Box 295, Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

For further information, please contact Robyn Rogers, Clerk by email at rrogers@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for applying, but only the selected candidates will be contacted. Personal information and supporting material is collected and used in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

COBOCONK, NORLAND AND AREA NEWS

Lovin' It Local invites visitors and residents in

The visually stunning communities of Norland, Coboconk, and Rosedale have always been a welcoming area full of unique experiences for visitors and residents alike. We invite you to experience and explore our area by visiting our one-of-a-kind shops and restaurants for a taste of how unique our area truly is!

The Coboconk, Norland and Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Bobcaygeon and Area Chamber of Commerce, Fenelon Falls and District Chamber of Commerce, Haliburton BIA, Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Lindsay BIA, and the Lindsay and District Chamber of Commerce have been working hard to deliver a new campaign titled Lovin' It Local.

Developed with funding through the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Lovin' It Local aims to energize the local businesses of the Kawartha Lakes, Trent Lakes and Haliburton County by encouraging individuals to prioritize shopping local.

Lovin' It Local has two main goals: to raise awareness and increase visibility of existing local businesses, and to celebrate the diversity and uniqueness of the local businesses based within our region. One of the most exciting parts of this campaign has been our Meet the Owner series where we have put faces to the shops and restaurants that people have loved for so long – and to businesses that you may have never visited before!

Did you know that you can get authentic Portuguese fried dough in Kirkfield at Becky Jo's Vovo Fried Dough, visit an alpaca farm in Coboconk at Windmill Point Alpacas, or discover one-of-a-kind items and gifts in Norland at A Zebra of a Different Stripe? We are proud to be able to have these businesses and their owners as part of our communi-



Craig and Carolyn Traynor, owners of A Zebra of a Different Stripe in Norland.
/Photo by Paul Reid, HotHouse Creative Inc.

ties, and we would love for you to meet them!

Check out the Facebook page Lovin' It Local so you don't miss out on the amazing businesses we have in the Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton, and Trent area. Also be sure to visit www.lovinitlocal.ca and view our fantastic Meet the Owner stories.

The Lovin' It Local campaign will inspire you to explore

all of the friendly faces and unique places that our communities have to offer!

*By Hayley Phoenix-Winterburn
Coboconk, Norland and Area Chamber of Commerce*

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED ROGERS 90 METRE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS GUYED TOWER INSTALLATION

PROPOSAL:

Rogers is proposing an antenna system at 1089 MacBrien Rd., which consists of the following: a 90m guyed tower in a fenced compound and three guy wire anchor points, located towards the eastern end of the property. Once completed the antenna system will measure 90m in height.

Rogers will host a Public Information & Comment Session via Zoom at 6pm on February 23, 2022:

Meeting ID: 416 527 5154, Passcode: Rogers

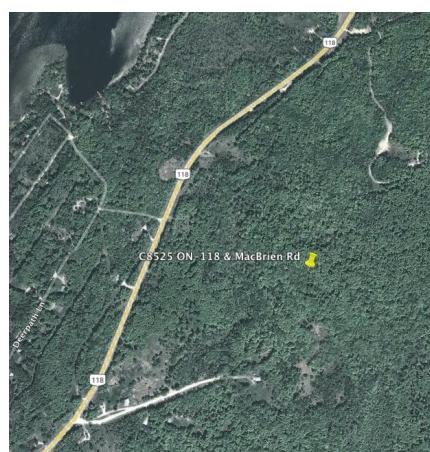
Rogers invites you to provide by mail or email your comments, and / or request to be informed of the Township's position on the proposed antenna system before 5pm March 2nd, 2022.

Rogers will respond to all reasonable and relevant concerns, and the Township will be taking into account comments from the public and Rogers' response to each when providing its position to the proponent and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada is responsible for the approval of this antenna system and requires that we review this proposal with the local municipality. After reviewing this proposal, the Township of Algonquin Highlands will provide its position to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and to Rogers.

Contact information:

Proposed Wireless Communications Installation
Reference: C8525 ON-118 & MacBrien Rd.
Eric Belchamber
On behalf of Rogers Communications Inc.
337 Autumnfield St
Kanata, Ontario K2M0J6
(613) 220-5970
eric.belchamber@rogers.com



 ROGERS^{MC}



Township of Algonquin Highlands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Rowe/Dahlin/Lupo/Kerr/Cerilli
Lot 3, Concession 2
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 3, Concession 2, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 3, Concession 2, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of Lot 3, Concession 2, described as Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-10570.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the 3rd day of February, 2022 and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: January 19th, 2022

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhIGHLANDS.ca

GET IT
online
www.mindentimes.ca

GENERATIONS

Meditating on mandalas

Mandalas are a spiritual symbol in various religious traditions, symbolizing cycles and light; mandalas are also a form of art full of emotion and beauty.

Creating mandalas can be used to cope with anxiety and stress. It is beautiful to see how simple shapes and forms come together to create wonderful, complex, flower-like drawings.

The image above shows two half-mandalas that I have made recently. The mandala on the left is one that I created digitally. The one on the right is one that I created by hand, on paper.

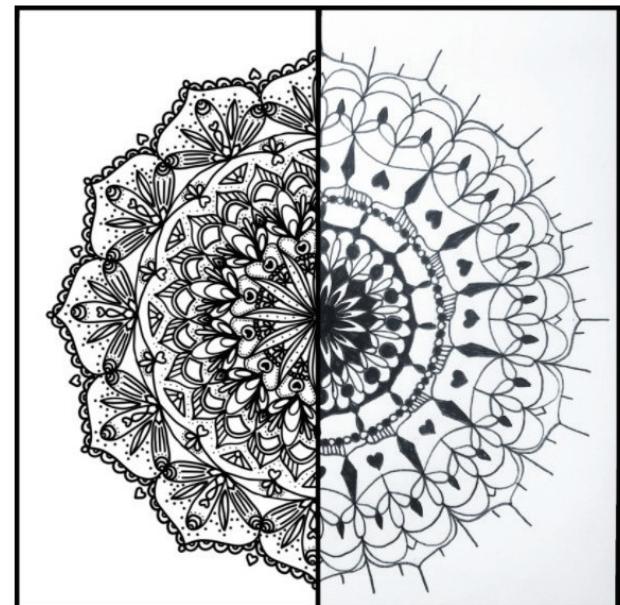
Since I am a perfectionist, I enjoy creating mandalas digitally where I can use symmetry guides. I love that each shape is perfectly replicated for me throughout the mandala. On the other hand, I also enjoy creating mandalas on paper. When I do this, it shows all the intricate detail in the same way but, I did it all by hand. I drew every perfect and imperfect shape,

which reminds me that life is full of both wonderful and challenging things.

I enjoy creating mandalas to step away from the world and be calm. Maybe creating mandalas could help calm you too? So give it a try! Remember, practice makes progression; and even if it is not perfect, you still created it -- every perfect and imperfect shape.

By Annabelle Borgdorff

This page brought to you by staff and students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.



Interact takes initiative

The HHSS Interact Club held a holiday shoebox drive prior to Christmas, collecting donations from Dec. 1 to 9 and then creating shoeboxes full of gifts and useful items for fellow students. /Photo submitted



Interact members package donations received from the school and community into boxes which were then split between the Minden and Haliburton food banks, then given to local teens. "The students take on this project every year as they feel that teens are often a more overlooked demographic when it comes to donations, and wanted to do something to help," said Christine Carr, HHSS teacher and club advisor.

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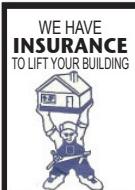
manager@canoefm.com

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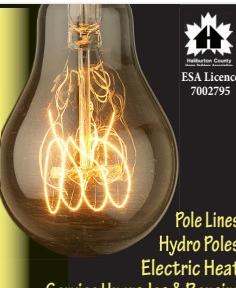
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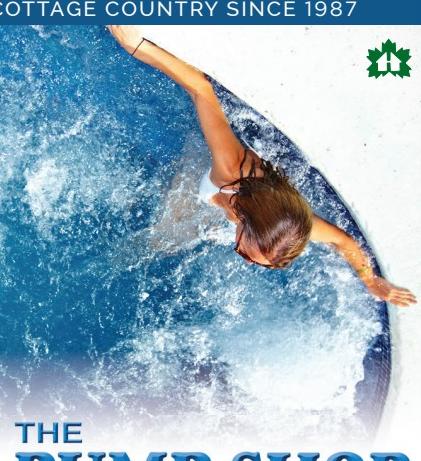
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Hockey at home

Nine-year-old Ames Simmons-Biskup shovelled the backyard rink after Monday's snowfall so he could go skating, his first time out on the ice this year. He built the rink with his dad in their Kinmount backyard so he could play hockey. /Photo by Melissa Simmons-Biskup



Baby's first snow

Izabela White was able to explore her first snowfall after quite a bit of it fell at her Ajax home during Monday's storm. White is the granddaughter of Ritchie and Liz Lyddiatt in Minden./Photo submitted by Nicole Lyddiatt

To see your loved ones on this page, send photos to
sue@haliburtonpress.com

Deer diner

Carrie Greenwood, on Windover Drive in Minden, had visitors to the backyard feeder as the sun was setting on Jan. 17. / Photo submitted by Carrie Greenwood



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9	8	3	1	2	6	7	4	5
3	2	5	4	7	1	8	9	6
6	1	9	3	8	2	4	5	7
8	7	4	9	6	5	3	2	1



Cats of Paint Lake rescue of the month



Dolly and Bill,
a Cats of Paint Lake romance...

This lovely pair of tabbies came from different backgrounds and different locations. They met here at the rescue, and absolutely adore each other.

Bill, AKA Billy Idol, came in from North Bay, as one of a number of cats trapped at a colony in town. He started out pretty sketchy but he's quite a love now. He's a big boy weighing in at just over 15 pounds, and loves all the attention and scratches you can give him.

Dolly is one of two kittens who were trapped near Dorset, with her sister Erin, who has been adopted. Dolly is still a little bit shy of people, but she loves to have her head scratched and petted, and would love a little bit of room to run and play.

If you are interested in learning more about Dolly or Bill or any of the wonderful cats at our rescue, please get in touch! I will be happy to tell you more about them. Call 705-854-0827 or email catsofpaintlake@gmail.com. /Submitted by Heather Deveaux



Smiling for a snow-fie

Charlotte and Hannah Patterson take a moment as the snow falls down for a selfie with mom Leah Thomas in Minden on Jan. 17. /Photo by Leah Thomas

Tough job but somebody's got to do it

Left, Evangeline Ingram takes a break from the fun of snow play in Lochlin with a smile. /Photo submitted by Chad Ingram

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In Loving Memory of
Bryan Russel Allen (1946-2022)

Passed away peacefully at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay, January 14, 2022 at the age of 75.

Predeceased by his father James, mother Etheline and brother Gary. Survived by his wife Marilyn Harvey, daughter Lori Allen-Kwapich, brothers Jim and Bill, sisters Debbie and Sharon, grandchildren Lucas and Kayla Kwapich, and step children Laura, Ron, Ken (Joanne) and their children. Bryan was a retired CN Rail employee with over 30 + years of service, an avid outdoorsman and an old car enthusiast, who loved spending time with family and friends, always willing to lend a helping hand. Many thanks to Nurses Gail, Brandi, Val, Susan and Carrie as well as Dr. Unligil and any other staff in ICU for the utmost care, compassion and kindness they showed Bryan and his family during his final days. Cremation has taken place, a celebration of life to be held at a later date. In Bryans honor, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be greatly appreciated. To leave an on-line condolence, make a memorial donation or to share a story or photo please visit: www.jardinefuneralhome.com

"Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure, till we meet again"

In Loving Memory of
Arlene Thomson

In loving memory of our Mother, Nanna, and Great Gramma who left us January 15, 2022.

Sadly missed along life's way
Quietly remembered everyday
No longer in our life to share
But in our hearts she's always there.

Predeceased by husband Douglas Thomson. Lovingly remembered by daughters Dale (Roy), Karen (Danielle), and Shelly (Luke), by 7 grandchildren, by 8 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. Dear sister of Marilyn O'Connor.

A private family interment will be held at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highland Health Services Foundation (H.H.H.S.F) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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LOOK INSIDE



What's cooking?

Emily Bjelis talks about the culinary arts at the high school's co-op fair.
See page 3



Cutie patooties

Little tiny, wee miniature horses have stolen Margaret Miller's heart.
See page 8



Reach for it

Senior Red Hawks forward Josh Warburton did his best in Spartans game.
See page 12



Hey, Pauline

Pauline Johnson is the new face behind the Stanhope News.
See page 15

In Quotes

"When all those people who worked on log drives are gone, it will just be in books and movies and scratchy National Film Board strips that we had in public school."

Carol Moffatt, page 5.



Carol Moffatt stands over her "baby," the Hawk Lake Log Chute project, a restoration effort five years in the making, still needs an additional \$20,000 – \$30,000 to see completion.

\$20,000 still needed for log chute project

by LANCE CROSSEY
Times staff

On a snowy Wednesday afternoon, Carol Moffatt gets out of her truck at Hawk Lake Log Chute, looks at the raging water spouting from the Trent Severn dam, and dotingly whispers, "Hello my baby."

It's a revealing, if not inadvertent, comment that reflects the intimacy Moffatt has built with

the log chute ever since she began her efforts to restore the historical relic more than five years ago.

The log chute, a man-made trough used to transfer logs over difficult landscapes, was used primarily between 1880 and the 1930s. And though it has been rebuilt a couple of times in the subsequent decades – the last time being 1971 – it has suffered from disrepair due to lack of a

long-term care plan. The dream for Moffatt, which is ever so close to being realized, is to transform the chute and surroundings into a heritage landmark.

"It's important because it's folklore," says Moffatt. "It represents a way of life that most of our grandparents will remember, but in a couple of generations nobody will care. While you and I still have that connection, that living connection to that era, we have an opportunity to make it come alive."

Moffatt and her husband Tony Aymong, who has co-supervised the venture, affectionately call the efforts to restore the log chute "the slowest project known to man." It started in 1999 when the former township of Stanhope approached Moffatt to draft an application for a government fund that was assisting

see CHIEF page 3

see LOG page 5

YWCA buys Lions centre

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times staff

Ten years ago the Minden Lions Club bought the medical centre on Bobcaygeon Road as a way of ensuring that local doctors had an affordable place to practice.

Last week YWCA Women's Resource Centre bought the building as a way of ensuring that it could provide more services – including the creation of a safe haven for women and their children.

The deal was signed last Friday, with both the YWCA and the Lions Club excited about what this will mean for the future.

"This county will finally have a safe space again," says Linda Reade, supervisor of the Minden facility.

"This is for an organization that's community-minded and good for the community," says Lions Club president Darryl Moore.

The YWCA moved its resource centre from Haliburton to the former medical centre last April and has been renting the space from the Lions Club since then. However, the province would not allow the centre to move forward with other plans until it owned the building. The provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services and the federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provided the funding for the purchase and future renovations. The Minden Lions Club is also expected to make a sizeable donation to the YWCA today (Friday).

see SAFE page 2

Hogg named fire chief

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times staff

Stanhope's fire chief will now be working full-time for Algonquin Highlands.

Late Thursday afternoon, council voted unanimously to hire John Hogg as its first full-time fire chief.

Hogg has been the volunteer fire chief for Stanhope since 1998. When Stanhope amalgamated with Sherborne et al to become Algonquin Highlands in 2000, he remained as chief in Stanhope and Sherborne had its own volunteer chief.

see CHIEF page 3

see LOG page 5

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